

# Finales

## *Finally, and Forever* by Beth Foreman

Leader's notes and Bible passages for this study are available online or by calling the LWML office.

**W**e all know what it's like to finish a book or a movie and think, "That was a terrible ending!" But exactly what makes a bad ending? A good ending? *Take a few minutes to discuss some fictional endings. Let's explore endings, those Finallys and Finales when a goal was met, a prayer was answered, or perhaps a door was slammed shut.*

Begin today's study by going to our heavenly Father in prayer and asking the Holy Spirit to direct your thoughts, study, and discussion so that it all will be pleasing to Him.

### Your Finally Moments

Recall a time when you've set a goal, prayed a prayer, or longed for something that was just out of reach and, when it happened, you said, "Finally!" *That's a Finally Moment!*

Share some of these moments and emotions. What's the problem with thinking that we'll be happy once we get that next Finally? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Finally Moments in the Bible

Read and discuss the Finally Moments in the following passages:

**Genesis 8:13–14** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 21:1–7** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 21:8–11** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 29:20–30** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 15:1–10** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 15:11–32** \_\_\_\_\_

### Finales

Finales are those times when a curtain comes down, a door closes, and the words on the screen say "The End."

Read **Genesis 3:22–24**. What kind of finale did Adam and Eve experience? How have we been touched by this finale? \_\_\_\_\_

Even in the depths of this painful finale, however, we see a beginning. Read **Genesis 3:15** and discuss the promise God revealed. \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Genesis 37:27–28**. What finales did Joseph experience? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Genesis 47:23–25**. What blessings do we see come from Joseph's finale? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Genesis 50:20** and discuss God's plan in Joseph's finale. \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Finales

Share a time when you've had a good finale in your life, the end of a long illness, the end of a long trip. Have some of these finales become beginnings? (Consider that the end of the day is the beginning of rest, and the end of winter is the beginning of spring.)

Let's shift gears and ponder the bad endings in our lives, times when it's over. The door shuts. We don't see how God is going to work this out. These might include failed relationships, loss of a job or a loved one. Share or quietly reflect on these finales.

Think about a time when you have been protected, like Noah and his family, by a finale. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Grand Finale

The Finally Moments and Finales in our life are not true endings. Once we've celebrated one Finally, there's another one just waiting in the wings. That's true of Finales too. While we long for closure, we often don't get it. The curtains seem to come down only to be yanked aside for another scene, sometimes joyful, sometimes painful. Longing for Finallys and Finales isn't the answer to living in joy and peace.

Read **Philippians 4:4-9** and share what you learn about living in God's peace. \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Matthew 27:45-51**. What curtain was torn? Did many see this as a real finale? \_\_\_\_\_

Read the beautiful story of the Resurrection in **Luke 24:1-9**. What three words can be a daily reminder whenever we despair about the painful finales in our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

Now read **Hebrews 10:19-25**. What does God's Word tell us about the Grand Finale? \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following verses and discuss the beautiful promises we have about endings, finales, finallys:

**Job 19:25** \_\_\_\_\_

**Revelation 22:13** \_\_\_\_\_

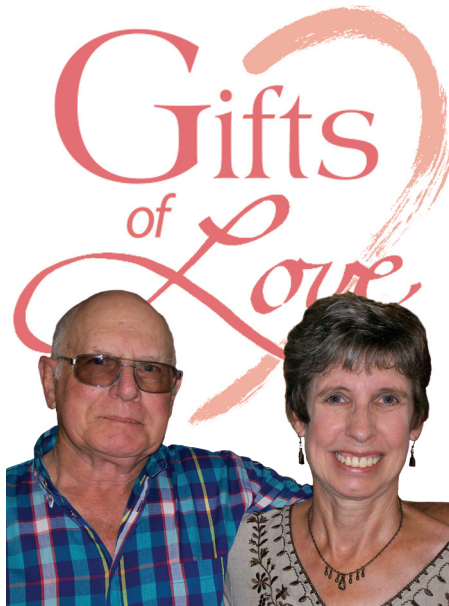
**Romans 8:28** \_\_\_\_\_

## Pray together

*Father of Heaven and Earth, Sometimes all we can say is Wow! Your design for our life and the life of all Your children is such a beautiful weaving of the finales and finallys. Grant us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us see that these aren't the real endings. May we trust alone in the death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior for the Grand Finale, eternal life. In Christ's precious name we pray. Amen.*

Close by singing the hymn "What Is the World to Me" (LSB #730; LW #418; TLH #430).

Beth Foreman recently moved from Utah to West Michigan with her family, where they have been warmly welcomed into their new church home, Zion Lutheran, Holland. A former English teacher, Beth serves on the Zone Christian Growth Committee and as the Associate and Features Editor for the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly.



Finally!  
The  
Right  
Plan in  
Place!

by Linda Gage, LWML Gift Planning Counselor

Meet Kathy and Larry White from Filer, Idaho. Like many people, they didn't have a plan in place that carried out their wishes when God calls them home. They are thrilled they finally got around to looking at, praying about, and seeking assistance to complete their Christian Estate Plan.

Kathy and Larry found the process available through our Gifts of Love Ministry extremely helpful and tremendously easy! They completed a simple survey that allowed them to share their estate preferences, including stewardship goals, family relationships, assets, and potential tax advantages desired. After that, they considered several Gift Plan Designs that carried out their goals.

They wanted to bless both their family and God's ongoing work. Kathy and Larry's plan allows them to do two things: to transfer a large portion of their estate outright to their children (through their Will) and to gift their Retirement Assets directly to ministry, including LWML, through a beneficiary designation. With this plan, they accomplish three goals: avoid the potential double taxation their retirement savings would incur if they designated them to heirs; retain use of their assets during their lifetime; and provide a gift to strengthen their favorite LCMS ministries, including LWML. Kathy shared, "We are so glad to finally have our plan in place and thankful for the assistance provided through LWML!"

You, too, can have the plan you desire in place! Look for the new LWML Gifts of Love Planned Giving Guide in your District Convention packets. We hope it encourages, equips, and inspires you to finally put your plan in place.

For more information about charitable estate planning, go to [www.lwmlgiftplan.org](http://www.lwmlgiftplan.org), call 1(888)482-8425, or email [lwmlgiftplanner@lwml.org](mailto:lwmlgiftplanner@lwml.org). Please consider naming LWML in your estate plan. Our legal name is Lutheran Women's Missionary League.