

WINNING

Introduction

We all want to win. After all, winning is better than not winning. In a game a win is defined, but life is not a game. And winning in the most important areas of our lives isn't always clear. So, how do we win?

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever avoided something in life because you weren't sure you could win? Share your story.
2. In the past, how have you defined winning in life? Have you ever adopted someone else's win (a parent, teacher, coach, friend, boss, etc.) and applied it to your life? If yes, how did it go?
3. Why do you think we feel pressure to win? In the relationships that matter most to you, how do you experience the pressure to win?
4. Words come to the minds of those closest to you when they think of you. What words would you want them to think of you? Where might gaps exist between your current actions and the words you want thought about you?
5. **Read 1 Corinthians 9:19–27 and 15:9–10.** In these passages, the apostle Paul shares how his past failure has shaped his view of winning. Do your past failures discourage or motivate you to win? How do you think God could use your past failures to shape your future wins?
6. In life, we don't always see what's competing against us and since we can't see our competition, we lack urgency. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?
7. How will you define your win in the areas of life that matter most to you? If the preparation begins today, what do you need to start doing or stop doing to win? Can this group do anything to help?

Moving Forward

Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

— 1 Corinthians 9:26–27