

January 21, 2024 - Influence: Finishing Well

Feel free to pick and choose some of the questions below to engage with as a group. Before you leave, be sure to spend some time going over the **Top 3** things your group members need to know.

Connect:

What is your favorite sporting event and why?

When you think about stamina and endurance, what comes to mind?

Engage:

Read Acts 20:17-25

What's going on in these verses? What do you think the emotions might be like?

Paul says he wants to finish the race. What do you find helpful about the running image?

Hills have a way of knocking runners out of races.

In what ways do we encounter hills in our lives? (emotionally, mentally, spiritually?)

In this sermon we heard, "It's not the hill you are on that gets you."

What is meant by this? How do you find this can be true? What hills are you currently running?

Finishing a race depends on how we pace.

How does our pace impact whether or not we finish well?

One way to evaluate whether we are running at a sustainable pace is to consider our desire for escape. How is our pace related to our desire for escape?

While many of us might feel like our pace is unsustainable, some need to pick up the pace.

What's the risk of just coasting through life WITHOUT a proper pace?

World class runners not only focus on running but also prioritize recovery.

Why is recovery so important?

Robert said we need a plan for recovery. You won't feel like it when the time comes.

What are some activities that help you recover?

Taking time to recover doesn't impact you—it impacts those around you.

How can you give importance to recovery and help those around you?

Read Acts 20:24: What does Paul say his race is?

Paul has been through some really tough things in his life, yet he maintains a focus on the good news of God's grace despite all that he has gone through.

Robert encouraged us to ask God for a fresh vision of God's goodness. What could this look like for you?

Apply:

This week we talked about finishing well. Do you feel like you need to focus on hills, pace, recovery, or grace in your current stretch of your race? What's one way you can?

What's one way you WILL?

Top 3:

Membership Class | Wednesday, February 21 at 6pm

Membership is a way for our church leadership and church members to make promises to one another as we seek God's best for Fondren Church together. The first step in becoming a member is to attend a membership class. In the class, you'll learn more about the history of our church, our leadership structures, and the ways we promise to care for you as a church member.

Serve Day | Saturday, February 24

Serve Day is a day when people from Fondren Church serve alongside ministries all over the Jackson-Metro. We have ways for people of all ages and abilities to make a difference together. Registration opens soon.

Marriage Workshop

"How to Childproof Your Marriage" | Wednesday, February 28

And Date Night | Sunday, March 3

Specifically for any couple who wants to improve their marriage so that being "mom and dad" doesn't overshadow their primary relationship as "husband and wife."

Something for everyone...

*Planning to become a parent? Learn healthy habits so you can begin well.

*In the "Middle Miles" and already raising little ones? Learn how to set priorities and establish healthy rhythms for your family's life.

*Empty nesters? As parents of grown children, grandparents, and good in-laws, how do our roles change and how can we move forward together and be a blessing?

In "How to Child Proof Your Marriage", Laura McAlpin and Raymond Kennedy, a Fondren Church member and professional counselor, will lead us through a night to strengthen marriages in every stage of parenting. Couples will receive encouragement, practical tips, and helpful resources to grow the strength of their marriage even in the midst of demanding seasons.

"No Kids, No Problems?" | Sunday, March 3

And Date Night | Wednesday, February 28

Designed for couples engaged or married without children focusing on conflict and connection!

*Relationship Roadblocks

*Repair and Reset once the Damage is Done

*Building habits of intimacy and purposeful conversation

In "No Kids, No Problems?", Laura McAlpin will lead us through a night to strengthen marriages in the early years. Couples will receive encouragement, practical tips, and helpful resources to grow the strength of their marriage even in the midst, building good habits and strong foundations.