



Discussion Guide — 01/11/2026

Series: The Infinite Game

Message: Learn the House Rules

Scripture: Lamentations 3:22–24; Proverbs 24:15–16 (NRSVUE)

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, your steadfast love never ceases and your mercies are new every morning. As we gather, help us name reality without fear, receive your mercy, and learn to rise again in you. Anchor our hope in your character, not our scoreboards. Amen.

Introduction & Context

This series contrasts finite games (fixed rules, clear winners) with infinite games (players change, rules adapt, the goal is to keep the good game going). Discipleship is an infinite game.

- **Lamentations 3:22–24** emerges from communal ruin and insists: God’s mercies renew daily; God is our portion.
- **Proverbs 24:15–16** reframes “righteousness”: the righteous do fall, yet they rise again—by grace, in community, with resilient habits.

Big Idea: Life with God isn’t about never falling; it’s about keeping on with God’s “house rules” of endless mercy and resilient hope.

Warm-Up (1–2 questions)

1. What’s a “house rule” from a game you grew up with? How did it change the way you played?
2. Where in life do you feel pressure to “win”—and how does that pressure affect your relationships or faith?





Read Together

Read Lamentations 3:22–24 and Proverbs 24:15–16 (NRSVUE).

Invite brief silence after each reading: What phrase or word stands out?

Discuss

1) House Rule #1 — Mercy resets the board daily (Lam 3:22–24)

1. Lamentations speaks of new mercies in the middle of devastation. How does mercy look in the rubble, not after it's cleaned up?
2. "The Lord is my portion" shifts hope from outcomes to God's character. Where are you tempted to place your portion elsewhere (results, approval, control)?
3. What small morning rhythm could help you actually receive mercy (e.g., coffee + quiet + one phrase from the text)?

2) House Rule #2 — The righteous rise... repeatedly (Prov 24:15–16)

4. According to Proverbs, falling isn't disqualifying. How does that reframe your last "fall"?
5. Who/what helps you rise (people, practices, boundaries)? What help do you resist—and why?
6. The text contrasts "rise" with the wicked being "overthrown by calamity." Where does your hope rest when things wobble?

3) Infinite vs. Finite (Applying the frame)

7. Where have you been treating an infinite arena (marriage, friendship, faith, church) like a finite contest? What changes if the goal is to continue the play with integrity rather than to win?
8. Which "scoreboards" most distract you (numbers, image, timelines)? How could "The Lord is my portion" reshape your metrics?

4) Repair, Don't Restart (Formation over reinvention)

9. What is one area from last year that needs repair rather than a full restart? What's the first faithful stitch?
10. Share one practice you'll try this week to embody "fall and rise" (ask for prayer/accountability).





Key Takeaway

With God, yesterday's move doesn't doom today—mercy resets the board, and the righteous rise again.

Next Step — P.A.R. (Pray • Act • Reflect)

Pray — Focus (daily, 2–3 minutes):

- Sit with one phrase (e.g., “new every morning” or “the Lord is my portion”).
- Name a real loss/lesson/longing before God.
- Ask for courage to rise and eyes to notice mercy in ordinary moments.

Act — Choose to Keep Going (pick one for the week):

- Morning liturgy: coffee + quiet + repeat your phrase; write one line of gratitude.
- Community assist: text one person, “Hold me to my practice this week?” and check in mid-week.
- Repair stitch: make a small, concrete repair (apology, boundary, budget tweak, screen cutoff, walk + prayer).

Reflect — Evening Examen (2 minutes):

- Where did I fall? Where did I rise—with help?
- Where did I notice mercy today?
- What adjustment will help me show up again tomorrow?

Closing Prayer

Faithful God, thank you for love that never ceases and mercies that never end. Teach us to rise by grace, to practice repair, and to hope in you alone. Keep us in the game with you and for others. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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