Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
There is a season for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

1. a time to be born and a time to die,
2. a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3. a time to kill and a time to heal,
4. a time to tear down and a time to build,
5. a time to weep and a time to laugh,
6. a time to mourn and a time to dance,
7. a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
8. a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
9. a time to search and a time to give up,
10. a time to keep and a time to throw away,
11. a time to tear and a time to mend,
12. a time to be silent and a time to speak,
13. a time to love and a time to hate,
14. a time for war and a time for peace.

3 TRUTHS ABOUT THESE OPPOSITE ACTIVITIES

1. Both activities cannot be done __________________ at the same time.
2. It is necessary to __________________ one activity in order to effectively do the other.
3. Trying to do 2 opposite things (being double-minded) will always cause _________________. (James 1:8)

COMMON OBSTACLES TO NEW BEGINNINGS

1. We hang on too long when we should end something now.
2. We are not convinced an ending is actually __________________.
3. We are afraid of the __________________.

TRUTHS ABOUT GODLY FRUIT BEARING (Based on John 15:1-16)

1. Fruit-bearing __________________ God.
2. ... is to be ________________ and cumulative over time: fruit, more fruit, much fruit.
3. ... is evidence that we are Christ’s ________________.
4. ... requires ________________ (staying connected) to Him.
5. ... is something we were chosen and appointed to do.
6. ... is to produce fruit that will last – have eternal value.

WHAT GOD DOES TO ASSURE A GOOD HARVEST

1. I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard:
   My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.
2. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good
God the Gardener:
1. ______________ the vineyard in fertile soil.
2. ______________ the soil by digging it up to specifically remove stones.
3. ______________ the choicest of vines.
4. ______________ with a watchtower.
5. ______________ for a harvest.
6. ______________ of good fruit is expected, (though often bad fruit is produced.)

16 “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse.” 17 Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.” Matthew 8:16-17

1. Simply trying to mix old ineffective ways with new godly ways, only makes things worse, because they are contrary to each other.
2. New ways of approaching life as a true disciple of Jesus will not fit old ways of thinking about just being a “Christian.”
3. New ways of living require new ways of thinking, especially exchanging the simple label of “Christian” for a proactive life of growing as a disciple. (LESSON 5)

3 KINDS OF NECESSARY ENDINGS IN ORDER TO BE MOST FRUITFUL

1. ______________ branches: They take space, produce nothing and block space for other growth.
2. ______________ branches: They take resources and threaten self & others.
3. ______________ buds: “Too much of a good thing.” (Plants produce more buds than can be sustained.)

THE KIND OF DEAD FRUIT GOD WANTS TO HELP US CUT OUT

Galatians 5:19-20
Sexual immorality Impurity debauchery idolatry Witchcraft hatred discord jealousy fits of rage Selfish ambitions dissensions factions envy drunkenness orgies and the like.

THE KIND OF FRUIT GOD WANTS US TO BEAR (Galatians 5:22)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love joy peace patience kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control
Against such things there is no law.

5 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed... One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

1. Before anything else happens, we must 1.) recognize we need to be healed and 2.) genuinely answer "yes" to the question “Do you want to be healed?”
2. To experience fully all God has in mind for us requires intentional, progressive steps of faith and obedience involving necessary endings & new beginnings.
3. The first step is to simply “______________” from the old place of spiritual unhealthiness, signally we are ready to end the old to begin the new by fully placing our faith in Jesus Christ and following what he tells us to do.
4. Not everything from our past is bad, but we do want to leave behind all that hinders, weighs us down, distracts or entangles us from reaching the goal of spiritual maturity.
5. God does not simply want us to get up and walk around the old “pool” of our past lives, only to return to put our mat right back where it was for another bunch of years.
6. God wants us to “get up”, “pick up our mat”, and “walk” from the old and into the new life in Christ God intends for us, determined not to return to our old condition.
7. ______________ at any point of intentional growth may have us further then where we were before but would not come close to all God has in mind for us.
At least one way this week I will try to put this lesson into practice is:

Weekly Going Deeper Study Guide
FOR "NECESSARY ENDINGS FOR NEW BEGINNINGS?"

- Before beginning each day simply ask God to help you see things that He would have you to see.
- When finished, pray again asking for the faith and the courage to follow His lead in areas He speaks to you about.

**DAY 1:**
1. Without rushing, read through this week’s lesson.
2. Paraphrase in 2 or 3 sentences what in your mind is the main message you get out of this lesson.
**DAY 2:**  
1. Carefully read and meditate on each of the scriptures in this week’s lesson.  
2. Identify the one that stands out the most to you and rewrite it in your own words.

**DAY 3:** Pick out one verse or passage from this week’s lesson (*How about the verse/passage from day #2*) that means the most to you or some other verse that comes to mind related to this week’s lesson. Write it on a small card, and try to memorize it or at least read and meditate on it several times through the next days.  

The verse(s) I chose:__________________________________________

**DAY 4:**  
1. Reread the lesson.  
2. Write down any things you see that God would want you to avoid, change, or give up.

**DAY 5:**  
1. Reread the lesson.  
2. Write down the most positive thing you see that you would really like to see become part of your life.

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**HERE IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN GROUP AS TO HOW PUTTING THIS LESSON INTO PRACTICE WENT THIS WEEK:**