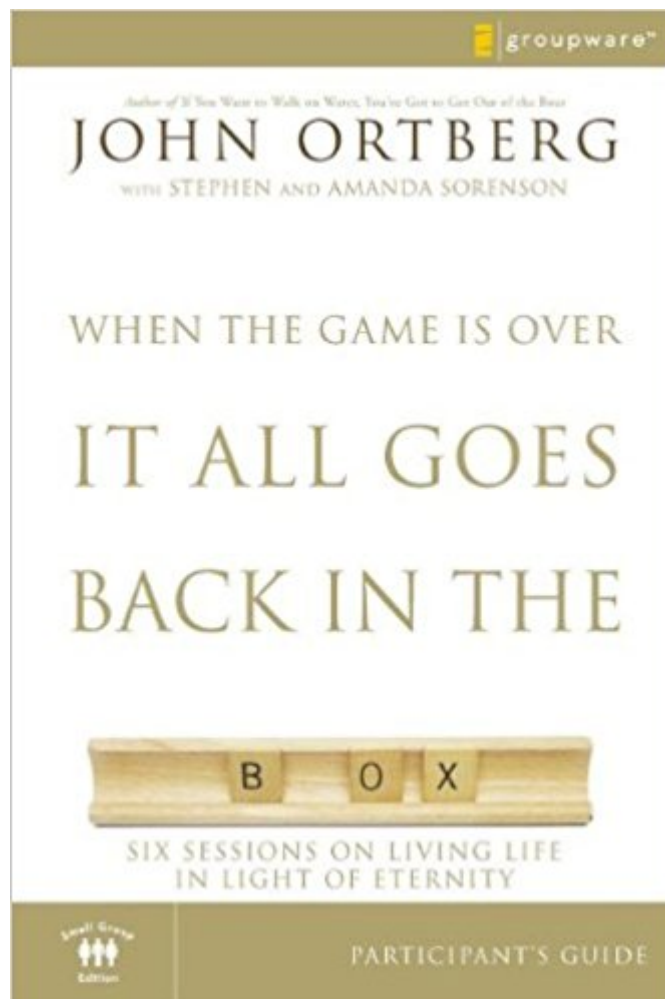


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# When The Game Is Over, It All Goes Back In The Box Participant's Guide: Six Sessions On Living Life In The Light Of Eternity



## Synopsis

Using popular games as a metaphor for our temporal lives, this six-session small group Bible study, *When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box*, by John Ortberg, neatly sorts out what's fleeting and what's permanent in God's kingdom. Today is the day you choose which game you want to win which prize you want to collect which priorities you want to set. It's a thrill to win at checkers or Clue or Trivial Pursuit. You sweep aside the other players and you own the board. It's also a thrill to win a promotion at work the new house you wanted that sports car you've always eyed. But just like the game cards, the tokens, and the timer, those prizes are temporary. When the game is over, they all go back in the box. Games can cast a powerful spell, says bestselling author John Ortberg. But the wisest player remembers that the game is always going to end. So when everything goes back in the box, you'll have made what is temporary a servant to what is eternal, and you'll leave this life knowing you've achieved the only victory that matters. *When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box* will teach you to:

- Live passionately and boldly
- Learn how to be active players in the game that pleases God
- Find your true mission and offer your best
- Fill each square on the board with what matters most
- Seek the richness of being instead of the richness of having

This Participant Guide is designed for use with the companion DVD (sold separately). When used together, they work as a powerful catalyst for spiritual growth. Sessions include:

1. *When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box*
2. *Keeping Score Where It Really Counts*
3. *Resign as Master of the Board*
4. *Calling or Comfort? Choose Your Moves Wisely*
5. *Playing the Game with Greatness and Grace*
6. *The King Has One More Move*

## Book Information

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Zondervan; Small Group ed. edition (July 27, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310282462

ISBN-13: 978-0310282464

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (158 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #403,779 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #201 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Adult Ministry #1759 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles >

## Customer Reviews

When the Game Is Over It All Goes Back in the Box is a book on life by John Ortberg, a Presbyterian pastor. His argument is thus: you will die, and when you do, you will lose all the stuff you have. Therefore, instead of focusing on things you cannot keep, focus on things you can. Ortberg says that the object of life is, as Jesus said, to be rich toward God. Pleasing God is part of this; part of it is putting a greater priority on personal relationships. This also turns out to be the place where we find true fulfillment. Ortberg's main target is those who say they will work less and spend more time with their families "when things settle down." His message is this: things never settle down until it's too late. The book is written with an amusing game theme. Ortberg borrows a lot of anecdotes from a lot of different authors, which is fine. He gives credit where credit is due. Ortberg has a surprisingly good sense of humor. Sometimes his jokes are pretty corny, but on the whole he seems like a funny guy. My only criticism of his writing is a small one: several chapters tend to run a little long (the reader has gotten the point and is ready to move on). There is criticism due the publisher: on nearly every other page, there are excerpts from the text blown up in boxes on the same page. Perhaps this is done for those flipping through the book in a shop, or for those who skim, but for the actual reader, it is incredibly annoying and distracting. On the whole, When the Game Is Over It All Goes Back in the Box is an accessible, engaging, humorous book on Christian living and eternity. This is obviously a Christian book, but the theologizing does not get heavy-handed, and Ortberg does not beat the reader over the head with the Bible. It can benefit any Christian as well as nonchristians who are feeling unfulfilled. **RECOMMENDED**

This book both encouraged me and challenged me at the same time. I've actually bought 3 additional copies & given them to friends of mine! John's style in this book is engaging, but also pushed me to think deeply about how I'm living. The stories he tells pull you in... and then cause you to reflect on how the topic might be playing out in your own life. I also appreciate how it's more than "John's best thoughts on living" -- but it points back to Scripture time & again. And in doing so, often unveils a dimension of the Bible in a way I'd not considered before. There were quite a few times I'd interrupt my wife while I was reading it, and say "you've gotta hear this section". Prompted some great discussion. Basically... I loved it.

When the Game Is Over It All Goes Back In The Box by John Ortberg is an inspiring, enlightening,

life-changing book. Since I am an avid gamer, the cover art drew me in immediately. But it was the author's wit and practical advice that captured my attention and kept me reading. It begins with the greatest opening line since *The Purpose Driven Life*, and guides you through a series of strategies designed to teach the reader how to "play the game" of life. Filled with wit and humor and moving stories, I laughed out loud one minute and found myself tearing up the next as a poignant illustration was presented to show how so many of us miss the important stuff by concentrating so intensely on temporary rewards. The author then offers practical tactics for modifying our "To Do" lists so we can reconnect with what's really important in life. Not only did I take from this book several ideas for improving my life and relationship with God, but also the desire to make a difference in the lives of those around me as John Ortberg and his Grandmother obviously have.

John Ortberg is an engaging and entertaining writer with a message. He likens life to a game. When the game is over, all the pieces go back in the box (casket) and what truly matters is not what you've won playing the game, but how you play. You can't live life without focusing some on death. While the basis of the book can easily be summed up in the old adage of life is like a game and it's not whether you win or lose, but how you play, Ortberg gives fresh meaning to it based on scripture and Jesus' teaching. This is truly a thought-provoking book and one that needs to be read by all Christians.

This book reminds us of what we already know but continually forget—that there are things that matter, and things that don't matter, and we easily become confused about priorities. This book is a great read for any 20-something who is setting priorities for how they will live their life, and a must read for any 50-something who needs to be reminded to focus on what counts for those years that remain. Five Stars!

I've never written a review of a book before....I couldn't help but write one for John Ortberg's "Back in the Box." I sat down at 2:30pm to start reading. After breaks for time with my son, time with my husband, time to fix dinner, time for TV, time for some housework, I STILL finished the book before going to bed at midnight. It was that level of "can't put it down." I'd finish a chapter, put it down to do something else, and be drawn right back to it as soon as I could get there. Fresh, humor-filled, real, thought-provoking, spirit-nudging, action-prodding. Highly recommend it for ANYone.

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