

Team Meeting 1



GOOD CHARACTER

GAME PLAN:

Our purpose of this session is to: explore the meaning of 'Good Character'.

- * What can I do to develop authentic Christian Character?
- * How do I become more like Jesus Christ?



HIGHLIGHT

Luke 6: 43 - 45 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
The Tree and Its Fruit

'A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs never grow on thorn bushes, nor grapes on bramble bushes. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.'



GOOD CHARACTER

FIRST HALF

- 1) Who are some of your favorite athletes?
- 2) What do you like about them?
- 3) What are the characteristics that made them a favorite?
- 4) What are some Characteristics you like about Jesus?

**TRAINING TIPS**

CHARACTER: Middle English 'character', distinctive mark, etched or imprint on the soul.

- A description of a person's attributes, traits, or abilities.
- Moral or ethical strength.

Jesus Christ is arguably the most respected historic figure of all time. As we investigate his life and teaching we will find out much more about him. Doesn't it make sense to want to live like and for him? In one of the four accounts of Jesus' life, the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is quoted to say, 'A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart,' The very foundation of who we are will eventually come out in our words and deeds. In the upcoming studies we will be looking at how we can have the heart and character of Christ.

GOOD CHARACTER

What makes sport so great is that you are challenged and tested. You are put in a pressure cooker and under the pressure your mental, physical, social and spiritual life emerges. It is fairly easy to be a Christian at a church when you merely sit down, listen to the speaker and sing a few songs; but what sport does is to better expose who you really are. Take an inventory of your character (your: attributes, traits, abilities and strengths), you may be just starting the race with Jesus or you may have allowed Christ to mold you for a long time. Regardless of where you are what is important is where you are going, Jesus said, 'follow me', will you follow?

SECOND HALF

- 1) What did Jesus mean by saying figs did not grow on thorn-bushes?
- 2) What are some of those characteristics you like about Jesus that you would like in your own life?
- 3) Do you know anyone that has some of those characteristics?
 - a. Give an example>>>
- 4) So if you want some of those characteristics - how do you get them?



- a. Need a hint? Look at what Jesus says in the FOCUS verse below.



HIGHLIGHT

John 15:5

'Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.' Jesus



ACTION PLAN

- Examine Jesus Life, ministry, death and resurrection.
- Make a list of three special characteristics that you would like to have which Jesus possesses.

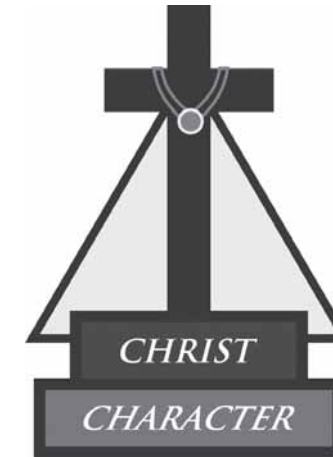
1.

2.

3.

- * Examples: patient, kind, joy, inner peace, to be gentle, compassionate, self-controlled, forgiving.
- Ask yourself: Have I really invited God to 'remain in me'?
- Ask yourself: How can I finally - and permanently - become a better person than I am today?
- Next, ask God to help 'work on your heart' to build those special qualities into your life.

Team Meeting 2



PRIORITIES
CORE VALUES

GAME PLAN

Our aim of this session is to examine and living-out our priorities through God's design for us.

HIGHLIGHT

MARK 12: 28- 31(for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)

THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT

'One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: Listen,



O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.'



FIRST HALF

- 1) What is one of the craziest team sports you can think of?
- 2) If you could play that sport what position would you want to play?
- 3) If you played that position what one or two priorities would you need to be successful?
- 4) Do you think that God has determined what should be important for you? Why or why not?



TRAINING TIPS

Priority: Value appraisal, established by order of importance.

'THERE IS NO OTHER COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE'

In the above HIGHLIGHT verses we find Jesus teaching stubborn religious leaders. One of the listeners earnestly wants to get to the heart of God's game-plan and asks Jesus, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' Jesus does not beat around the bush or give a complicated sermon, he simply asks for total commitment. you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.'

Christ goes right of the heart and gives us a clear perspective on how we are to live. He teaches us we are to pursue a relentless love for his Father and for other human beings. Anything less falls short of how God designed us to live. Jesus helps us focus on what we are commanded by God to do: we are to love God and love others. This is our top priority, the rest of our life is in response to these guidelines.

There is important significance in the use of each of the words: heart, soul, mind, and strength: The main emphasis is on their combined strength by which they stress the whole person.

- Heart: brings out the concept of the inner being with God as central and supreme.
- Soul: is often used to refer to the physical life - total commitment.
- Mind: refers to our ideas, point of view, and perspective of life.
- Strength: refers to all our abilities, talents, gifts, and physical powers.

Our passage in Mark 12:28-31 (and it's parallel in Matthew 22:37-40) stress our top priority is a unyielding and total commitment to loving God and to love others. The second commandment will grow powerfully and purely out of love for God. Understand, none of us has arrived at a perfect love for God, but loving God with our total person must become our top priority, desire and our goal.

HIGHLIGHT

PHILLIPIANS 1:9 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.'





SECOND HALF

- 1) When we are relentless with our love for God, how do our other priorities fall in place?

- 2) From memory what are the four ways Jesus commanded us to Love God?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

- 3) Give a real life example of how we can love God from the above four:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

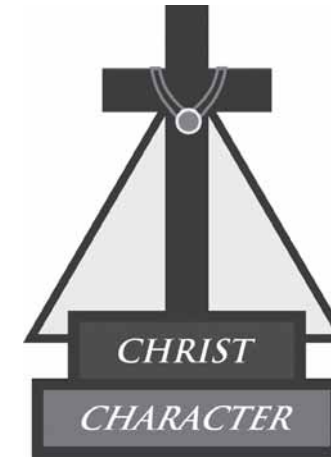


ACTION PLAN

- List all those areas in your life that are important to you;

- Then ask yourself:
 - * In view of Jesus teachings, where should I change my priorities?

Team Meeting 3



INTEGRITY

GAME PLAN

Our purpose of this session is to examine Jesus life of 'integrity: the quality of being a complete player whole and undivided'.

HIGHLIGHT

LUKE 2:52(for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.'

FIRST HALF

- 1) What could be the top four skills you would like to possess for your sport?





TRAINING TIPS

INTEGRITY: 'To be complete'

Jesus was the complete player:

We have a very large amount of information about Jesus' adult life - his: ministry, teachings, death and resurrection. But we have very little information about his life as a young person. Fortunately, in the bible, the great historian and biographer Luke, inspired by God, records one very important detail about Jesus as a young person. This very small picture of Jesus youth has encouraged youth for two thousand years to live a life of integrity, to be a complete person. *'Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.'* LUKE 2:52

Jesus was not a one dimensional being clearly he was concerned about the whole person.

He tackled:

- spiritual needs through preaching
- mental needs through teaching
- physical needs by healing the sick and feeding the hungry
- social needs through his encouragement to love your neighbor.

- 2) Some athletes love to lift, others rather run, what do you like to do best? (watching tv does not count)
- 3) Why is it important in your sport to work on 'integrity' - all areas of your life: mental, physical, spiritual & social.

He wants his life to totally be 'integrated' into your life. Not just on Sundays, but in every area of your life and sport.

SECOND HALF

1. Why is it important to have integrity in all areas of your life?
2. When you are missing integrity in one part of your life can it hurt your sports career? How?
3. If Jesus did not have integrity would it have hurt his ministry?
4. Is it easier to trust a person that has integrity in all areas of their life?
5. How important is trust to you?





HIGHLIGHT

JOHN 15: 9-10 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love.'

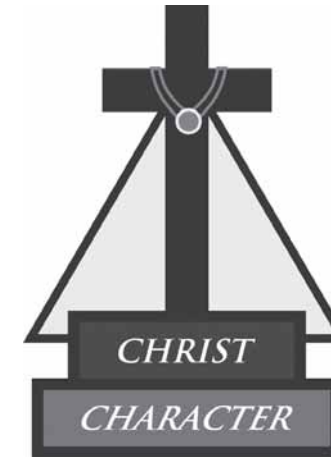


ACTION PLAN

This week ask yourself:

1. 'What do I need to work on to add integrity (being an all-around person) to the rest of my life?'
 - Mental
 - Physical
 - Social
 - Spiritual
2. 'How can I encourage my team and team-mates to have integrity - Good Character on and off the field?'

Team Meeting 4



GOALS

GAME PLAN

The aim of this session is to discover how we can be strengthened spiritually by setting goals.



FOCUS

EPHESIANS 2:8-10 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.'





FIRST HALF

Winners don't succeed by accident. They figure out:

- Who they are?
 - Where they are going?
 - How they are going to get there?
- 1) From our HIGHLIGHT verse we understand who we can be in Christ - saved by "grace". What does 'grace' mean? (See appendix if you need help.)
 - 2) We are God's 'masterpiece' - what does that mean to you? Discuss
 - 3) Talk about what it means to be - 'created us anew in Christ Jesus.'
 - 4) Lastly, Paul says God has 'good things he planned for us long ago.' What good things could you imagine we can do? List three of them:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

TRAINING TIPS

Goal: The purpose toward which an effort is directed.

- The finish line of a race.
- A specified structure or zone into or over which players endeavor to advance a ball or puck.
- A target for achievement.

God created each of us to serve him, our HIGHLIGHT verse teaches, *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."* The Bible makes it very clear that every Christian athlete is called to serve God; we were created for service, saved for service, and uniquely gifted for service.

As athletes we understand that to-achieve-our-personal-best, we must: run, lift, practice and work together as a team. You may set a goal of running six days a week, lifting four days a week, training five days a week and training as a team five days a week. Your purpose is to be the best athlete you can be, your goals help you to go in the right direction.

To live your life for Christ as his 'masterpiece' we need to set goals to be the best we can be. Prayer, encouraging and being encouraged by other Christians, and reading your bible, will help you to better live out your faith and do the 'good things he planned for us long ago'.

When you write out goals ask yourself:

- Are all my goals written down?
- Are all my goals achievable?
- Are all my goals challenging?
- Are all my goals measurable and specific?
- Are all my goals pointing me in the right direction: 'so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.'



Team Meeting 5



FOCUS

KEEPING-FIRST-THINGS-FIRST

GAME PLAN

Our aim at this character study is to learn how to stay focused: KEEPING-FIRST-THINGS-FIRST.



HIGHLIGHT

PHILLIPIANS 3:12-13 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)

'I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.'





FIRST HALF

- 1) Why is focus an important key to being a great athlete?
- 2) Give me an example of a focused person in your life?
- 3) What does it take to be focused?
- 4) What does it take to be focused on the right things?



TRAINING TIPS

Focus: staying in the zone

Our Character study is from the famous verses by the Apostle Paul, in a letter he sent to encourage and help the church in Philippi to keep its focus. It is easy to get distracted from our goals and purpose, being focused keeps our life aligned with God. The Apostle Paul was not always focused on following Jesus Christ. In fact at one point he was intently focused on destroying everything that Jesus stood for. But after Paul's dramatic conversion he realized that his whole life (like ours) is to serve God; and in serving God we will find true joy. Philippians 3: 8 'Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.' The Bible reminds us to stay focused on the important things: Loving God, spending time with God in prayer, serving others and trying our best to live like Christ. Does this mean we should quit our sport and go join a monastery? Of course not, for some reason God has placed you among your team-mates, some that may not know

or want to follow Jesus Christ. Your challenge is to focus on God, your family, your education and your performance and team-mates. You may be the biggest influence on their life.

Paul gives us a great tip on how to keep a sustained focus: 'I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead'. Paul had a remorseful history, at one point encouraging a follower of Christ to be stoned to death; but he knew that part of his life was over and he was completely forgiven. He did not allow his past to paralyze his future. Through God's mercy he could focus on the goal of living in obedience and reaching the world for Christ. Like Paul, we all have stuff in the past that needs to be dealt with, to ask forgiveness then move on. We will find real joy when we press forward and keep our eyes fixed on Christ.

HIGHLIGHT

PSALM 51: 9-10 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.'



SECOND HALF

- 1) Have you ever had a lousy performance? Describe
- 2) What happens if you keep dwelling on the past?
- 3) What happens if we keep looking backwards instead of forwards?



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- 4) Paul's key to focus is to ask for forgiveness so that he could concentrate on his goals. Agree or disagree - discuss

- 5) Why is focus important to a successful life?

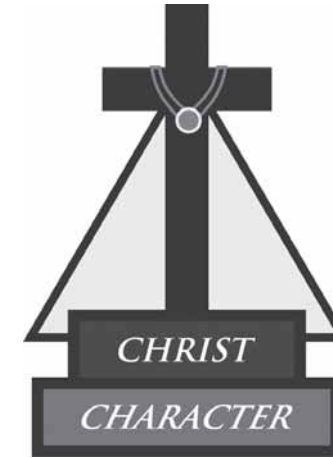


ACTION PLAN

- Have you asked God to give you a clean heart?
- Is your life focused on your goals? On serving God and giving him honor in all you do?
- This week take a look at your goals and renew your commitment to achieving them. Where you have sinned (veered from God's ways) ask for forgiveness and keep looking ahead.

Team Meeting 6

Series 1



TEAMWORK

GAME PLAN

The aim of this session is to examine, encourage and put-into-practice great 'teamwork' on God's team.

REVIEW

Our last session was on 'Focus': name two ways to keep your focus on your top priorities?

HIGHLIGHT

1 Corinthians 12:12, 25 - 27 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)

'The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ...' *'This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If*





one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church;

FIRST HALF

1. Give an example of a team that works well together?

2. Have you ever been beat by a great team? Explain what made them great?

3. Why does Paul use the image of, 'the body' to illustrate what a team/church should look like?

4. Give four examples of teamwork.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

5. The Apostle Paul uses the body as an example of a team: in your words give an example of how the church is working as a body:

TRAINING TIPS

Team: comprises any group of **people** linked in a common purpose

Followers of Christ are linked together. Jesus told us the top two commandments were to love God and love other people. Christians are basically a team whose purpose is to love. Love requires energy, skill, time and emotion. The Apostle Paul again uses a very cool metaphor, (we are one body) that helps us understand how to be a great team and a great church! So if our church is a team and our common purpose is to love God and humans (which we can do in thousands of different ways) how are we doing?

Profile of a great team:

No doubt whenever we see a 'great-team' many talented athletes come to mind. But why is it that other talented athletes never win the championship or bring home the hardware? On most teams even a superstar can't carry the team alone - it takes a united group of committed people with focus. There are several different types of teams. Not just sport. Doesn't the church get more done when it sees itself as a team?

A GREAT TEAM: (CHURCH)

- Has a fundamental plan.
- Encourages leadership to emerge.
- Has a central goal and clearly understands its purpose.
- Communicates with one another, as well as the coaching staff.
- Each team member knows what their role and skills are on the team.



- There is mutual respect and appreciation for each position/ role among the players and coaching staff.
- Rises to a challenge and does not wilt under critique or pressure.
- Understands it is powerful and effective when it is united.
- Is grateful and proud to be a member of the organization.
- An individual contribution of each player is recognized and appreciated regardless of whether they are a starter or not.
- The team as a whole is committed to improving its performance.
- Each member considers themselves as a team-player?

We believe that athletes can help the church because it has experienced what a team can do when it is unified and understands 'team-work.' Athletes understand how to get there body into shape and incorporate their skills into a bigger body (the team). Are you a healthy member of God's body? Are you contributing to God's team?



HIGHLIGHT

Romans 12:4-6

'Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.'



SECOND HALF

- 1) Have you ever broken a bone?

- 2) What did you do to get healthy?
- 3) Have you ever been injured and not able to contribute to your team? How did it feel?
- 4) Have you seen athletes that did not contribute to the team, in fact they were counter productive?
- 5) Can the same happen in the church?
- 6) How can you be a healthy productive team-mate in the church?

ACTION PLAN

This week remember that you are not only part of a sports team but you if you are a follower of Jesus Christ you are part of a global team (body). Ask God to help you be an impact player on God's team. Ask yourself how you can help God's team work together as a team.



Team Meeting 7



RESPONSIBILITY

THE ABILITY TO RESPOND TO GOD'S TRUTH

GAME PLAN

Our purpose for this meeting is to investigate our 'Responsibility' in view of God's truth.



REVIEW

Last session we focused on the character quality of 'Teamwork'. As a team working together how would you rate yourself as a team player on a scale from 1-10? What did you improve on this week?





HIGHLIGHT

John 10: 1 - 11 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)

"I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep".



FIRST HALF

- 1) What was the first team you ever played for?

- 2) How did you hear about the team?

- 3) What would it feel like if you found out there was a really cool sport out there but you did not know about it because no one bothered to tell you about it?

- 4) Were you nervous when you decided to try-out for the team?

- 5) What responsibilities do you have to the team?

TRAINING TIPS

Responsibility: the ability to respond: ownership of ones action - inner-strength to control personal behavior and respond appropriately to the environment.

At some point in your life you heard there was a team to join. You did not create the team or invent the rules; but you decided to join the team. You responded to the challenge/invitation to come and be part of the team and to make a commitment to the team. The same principle is true on God's team. Jesus says, 'Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved.' - eternal life with His Father. Our responsibility is to enter God's Team through Jesus.

We (humans) all have one thing in common, we are all flawed. The flaw is deep within us and it is commonly know as sin. Sin means missing the target - we do not do what we were designed to do. Our sin keeps us separated from God, yet the bible teaches us that everyone has a deep yearning for God ('Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart,' Ecclesiastes 3:11). When we are



privileged to hear about God's love, truth and law's the Spirit of God brings about a spiritual awakening inside us. This 'awakening' will lead us to a life free to be united with God; which happens through Jesus Christ his son. This truth is commonly called the Gospel or 'Good News' which tells us we have access to God because of the sacrifice, Jesus made dying on the cross - see Game Plan illustration page?

On the other hand, Man has a responsibility to believe the Gospel (the 'good news'); to turn away from a godless life (repent), and to put by 'faith' Christ at the center of our life. Every Christian individual at some point realizes the great truth: 'If I don't accept Christ and ask for forgiveness of my sins, I'm going to Hell.' You realized what God has done for you by making His Son a sacrifice for you. Your responsibility is to faithfully respond and enter into God's team.



SECOND HALF

- 1) What does Jesus teaching in our 'HIGHLIGHT' mean to you?

- 2) In your words, what does Jesus mean when he says:
 - *'Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved.'*
John 10: 1 - 11

- 3) What is our responsibility to Jesus story about being the gate?

- 4) At the end of the HIGHLIGHT Jesus says: John 10:10, 'my purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life'. Another translation says, 'I have come to give you life to the max'. Do you know of people that in Christ live a life to the max?

- 5) What do the bottom HIGHLIGHT verses mean to you? what do

HIGHLIGHT

John 12:46 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'I have come to the world as its light to keep anyone who believes in me from remaining in the darkness'

1 Timothy 2:6 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.'

ACTION PLAN

Jesus teachings ('Hear my voice and come to me') demand a response. Through Christ God seeks out our response to the Good News and by faith we can enter in a relationship with Him - to join God's team.

- Have you joined God's team or are you still indecisive?
- Make that decision today and let a friend know you are definitely on God's team!
- Not sure how to join His team, the prayer in the back of the book (page??) can be helpful.



Team Meeting 8



RESPECT

GAME PLAN

In this session's character study we will be looking at the art of respect: to value and respond to others as people created in the image of God: to examine why human life is sacred.

REVIEW

Our last session we emphasized the character quality of responsibility - in your own words how would you define it?

HIGHLIGHT

Genesis 1: 26 - 28 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky,





the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

FIRST HALF

- 1) I see myself more as a SUV or a Ferrari?

- 2) I see myself more as a thinker or person of action?

- 3) I enjoy being around talkers or listeners? Why?

- 4) Name some people you respect and why?

- 5) At some level, all people are worthy of respect.
Agree/disagree?

- 6) In practice and in games if an athlete gives less than their best is that a form of disrespect for their opponent?
Yes/no - why/why not?

TRAINING TIPS

Respect: to esteem: the condition of being and expressing value and honor.

There are four key elements:

- appreciation
- value
- regard
- appropriate conduct

Respect is of great importance in everyday life. As children we are taught (one hopes) to respect the truth, our parents, teachers, elders, rules and laws, family, cultural traditions, other people's feelings, rights, our country, leaders, and people's differing opinions. We may also learn that, at some level, all people are worthy of respect. Also, that you are to respect yourself, regardless of your skills, or background. You are awesome because you are uniquely created by God.

Too often in our fast-paced, over-stimulated, jacked-up society we do not take the time to value what is important. Human life is sacred. With time and usage, any phrase can become worn and meaningless. Even the words 'sanctity of human life' can get watered down. We should consider words like these slowly and thoughtfully. Our first HIGHLIGHT verse confirms the idea that humans are unique and very special. God created human beings in his own image. Genesis 1:26-28 describes the Creator's intention in forming human life. God did something distinctive with this aspect of his creation. He created men and women "in his own image" and worthy of respect. We have the general impression that man was the central focus in God's creative purpose.

Dr. Ian Tattersall, in *Being Human*, says humans represent a 'totally unprecedented entity' on Earth, and "Homo sapiens is not simply an improved version of its ancestors - it's a new concept."



What makes humans unique from the rest of God's creation:

- Just as God is immortal, so is the human soul.
- Humans are designed to love and be loved.
- Humans are intelligent; aware of our surroundings and capable of changing them.
- Every man has the ability to choose for himself his actions.
- Humans are morally aware. Man understands that certain things are good and certain things are evil.
- God has given man 'free-will', which likewise reflects God's image.
- Humans have the capacity to be aware of God and sense a need for a relationship with Him.
- Man has a special capability to enjoy and have a relationship with God. This part of man was put into effect freely in the Garden of Eden, before the fall.
- Because of sin all men are separated from God.
- All men still are able to comprehend God's existence, but none are able to fellowship with Him unless they have been born again in Christ.
- Christ becomes the bridge that can give us access to God. See God's Game Plan page???
- Christianity is the ongoing, living expression of Christ's work in the world. It represents God's successful purposes in rescuing mankind from sin and providing his children with eternal life.



HIGHLIGHT

Psalm 139:13-16 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.'

Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous-how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.'

SECOND HALF

- 1) Do people have to earn your respect?
- 2) Do you have to earn respect?
- 3) What makes human beings unique?
- 4) If you were God would you have created humans free will and to have the capacity to turn their back on the creator?
- 5) Can you have love if there is no 'free-will'?



ACTION PLAN

This week think about how incredible you are as a human being. Remember that you are valued and have a special status as one of God's creation. Also remember that God loves his creation so much that he sacrificed his Son so that we could enjoy that special relationship with him. (see God's Game Plan in appendix). Lastly, remind yourself that God wants us to value all his special creation and treat them all with respect.



Team Meeting 9



LEADERSHIP

TO LEAD IS TO SERVE

GAME PLAN

Our theme this session is 'Leadership', we want to consider, understand and apply what the bible says about leadership throughout our team and within our personal life.



REVIEW

Last meeting we focused on the character quality of 'respect'. Let us see how valuing others as created in the image of God is a key ingredient to this session's emphasis on 'leadership'.





HIGHLIGHT

Luke 22:24-27 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called `friends of the people.' But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.'



FIRST HALF

- 1) If you could live anywhere you wanted where would you live?
- 2) What country would you like to visit?
- 3) Who are the best leaders in sport?
- 4) Who are some of the greatest leaders from history?
- 5) What made them so great? Explain

- 6) From our HIGHLIGHT above, what criteria does Jesus say a leader needs?

TRAINING TIPS

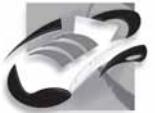
Leadership: the ability of an individual to influence, encourage, and mobilize others to contribute toward the effectiveness and success of the team.

Leadership is a huge concept and means many things to many people. Arguably most historians will say (whether they are Christians or not) that Jesus was the greatest leader of all time. His principles of leadership challenge many ideas we may have about leadership. First and foremost he encourages leadership to be in harmony with his Father. Second he modeled a servant/ leadership style. He never intimidated or used his position to coerce his followers. 'For I am among you as one who serves.' Many modern leadership gurus say that the act of washing the disciples' feet was the greatest and most powerful lesson on leadership.

Jesus was involved in the lives of his disciples; and his followers also became some of the greatest leaders in history. Christian leadership ultimately aims to help others become committed followers of Christ and his teachings. One of the most influential servant leaders and follower of Christ was the Apostle Paul.

Below is a quote from Oswald Chambers about Paul's Leadership approach:

'Paul's idea of service was to pour his life out to the last drop for others. And whether he received praise or blame made no difference. As long as there was one human being who did not know Jesus, Paul felt a debt of service to that person until he



* Takes all the credit for good results
1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10

gives all the credit for good results.

* When the team fails they blame others
1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10

when the team fails they take responsibility.

* Makes decisions without advice and consultation.
1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10

openly seeks input and consultation.

* Makes decision according to worldly values
1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10

uses prayer and biblical principles as the main criterion.

* Is not accountable shuns evaluations
1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10

accountable to God & invites evaluation to improve performance.

* Changes direction to stay popular
1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10

sticks to what is right even when it is unpopular.

* Clings to power and position
1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10

more interested to advance the team.



ACTION PLAN

Good leadership makes everything better! You may-or-may-not be in a leadership position right now. But chances are that God is preparing you for some important things. Ask yourself this week if you have what it takes to be a great leader. Evaluate how you are doing and ask someone you trust to give you guidance. Ask God to prepare you for something special.

Team Meeting 10

Series 1



HONESTY

GAME PLAN

This session will challenge the hearts of most of us. One of the keys to a great character is honesty: being truthful and being trustworthy.

REVIEW

We stressed leadership in our last theme - name four qualities of a great leader:

HIGHLIGHT

John 8: 31-32 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'



Proverbs 11:3

*'Those who do what is right are guided by their honest lives.
But those who aren't faithful are destroyed by their trickery.'*

Luke 8:15

'And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.'



FIRST HALF

1. If you had a nickname based on your spiritual life, what would you want to be called:

Rock, yo-yo, rookie, second-teamer, weenie, stud... other?

2. What is your oldest possession?

Do you remember getting it?

3. How many lies do you get to tell before you are a liar?

4. What does honesty have to do with your character?

5. Why is being honest so difficult?

6. What is your definition of an honest person?

TRAINING TIPS

HONESTY: is the **human quality** of communicating in a **truthful**, direct, and complete manner.



Arguably the number one quality of a leader is "trust". To be trustworthy is to be a person whom you can put your faith in. Honesty produces trust! The root of trust is truth; people that are honest are more easily trusted.

One of the worst names you can call a person is "liar". But honesty takes a very strong determination. The right thing to do is seldom the easy thing to do - but it is well worth the effort. The truth is that deception is a common, weak and seductive practice. We do so to avoid embarrassment, to keep from hurting people's feelings, to keep information from people we do not trust or to exaggerate our skill. In many cases sportspeople are encouraged to cheat to win - though the victory is hollow.

Coach Doug Reese, US Olympics says, 'There are a number of ways to give yourself an advantage, or an edge on the athletic field - one is by out working your opponent; being in great physical shape, being as strong as possible, and by being technically sharp. There are other methods to gain an edge over the competition such as developing tactics and strategies, strong mental skills, and self-confidence in your abilities. Competition is not just playing a game any more; it has now evolved into a technical science. Yet, there are still athletes who look for an edge in all of the wrong places - and will sacrifice their integrity in the process.'

HONESTY GIVES YOU:

- Trust - to be successful in sport and in life requires a reputation for honesty. When people trust you the doors open to greater opportunities.

- Confidence - people who tell the truth have less concern, less stress, and feel better about themselves.
- Satisfaction - you have satisfaction when you do the right thing. You have satisfaction when you pay a price, work hard, and sacrifice. Satisfaction is a result of diligent effort, not cheap shortcuts.
- Friendship - is one of the best parts our lives. Some would argue that friends create the fabric of life. Trust is the foundation of a strong friendship - when trust is gone, there is no foundation upon to build. Relationships lacking in trust will be hollow and shallow.
- Freedom - One of the best results of honesty is freedom. 'Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

When we are honest with ourselves we realize we need help to restore our friendship with God. If we were more honest with ourselves we could better confront our pride, lust, laziness... The great news is that God knows our inner hearts even better than we do; and he still loves us (which is pretty amazing) and wants to forgive us. When we are honest with our sin and go before God pleading for forgiveness, he is faithful and true to forgive us and our friendship with God is restored. When you are honest with others we become trustworthy. Your integrity is strengthened and and God will use you in bigger and bigger ways.



HIGHLIGHT

Romans 5:10 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.'

Luke 16:10 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.'

SECOND HALF

1. How do you benefit from being an honest person?
2. How important is it to you that your friends be honest?
3. Cheating is just another form of lying. Do you agree/disagree?
4. In your words what does 'For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son', mean to you?
5. In your words what does: 'If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones, but if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities' mean to you?





ACTION PLAN

Honesty gives us trust, confidence, friendship, satisfaction and freedom.

This week ask yourself how honest you have been with yourself, God, family and friends.

If you have been dishonest ask God for forgiveness and be confident that your relationship with God is restored through Jesus his Son. Next, go to the person you were dishonest with and make amends.

Team Meeting 11



FUN

the joy of the Lord is our strength

GAME PLAN

Our purpose of this session is to explore the secret of happiness, to better understand joy: to have fun.

REVIEW

Jesus said: *'But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.'*

What greater responsibilities could Jesus be talking about: any examples?





HIGHLIGHT

Luke 10: 17 - 21 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
 'When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"

"Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven." At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and he said, "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way."



FIRST HALF

- 1) Name one fun thing you have done this week?
- 2) Name one fun thing you would like to do in the future?
- 3) Who are some fun people to be around? Why?
- 4) Have you met people who seem to have everything and yet are miserable?

- 5) In our above HIGHLIGHT verse, Jesus' seventy two disciples (students) had just returned from a time of serving people in various villages. They arrived back to headquarters very pumped up! Why were the disciples so 'joyful'?

- 6) What did Jesus tell 'the seventy-two disciples', to be joyful about? Why?

TRAINING TIPS

Fun: to experience joy: "feeling of pleasure and delight,"

There are poor people whom you will find immensely happy. They don't have anything, but they are rich. Their joy is not in things but in their relationship and service to God. And there are wealthy people who have everything but are absolutely miserable, hollow and empty. What makes some people so happy?

In the above HIGHLIGHT verse we find Jesus at a very happy moment. Jesus had trained a group of followers to make an impact (preach, heal, encourage) on the world and sent them out on a short term outreach. In Luke 10:17 we find the students (disciples) arriving back to report to Jesus and they are pumped! Jesus encourages them that their ultimate happiness is not that they can do miracles in his name. Their ultimate happiness is because they will have eternal life in heaven. Jesus takes great pleasure and delight that these simple men have discovered how wonderful it is to know and serve God.

Yet many people are unhappy, what they think will give them real fun actually makes them miserable. Many studies have been done on wellbeing and happiness - below are a collection of 'character qualities' of genuinely fun - happy people:



The people who have fun and take real pleasure in life are people who:

- Can share their joy with others. []
- Pursue personal growth. []
- Do not compare themselves with others. []
- Have an attitude of gratitude. []
- Take care of mind, body and spirit. []
- Absorbed in activities that cause them to forget themselves. []
- Become aware of Gods gifts. []
- Deep trust in God. []
- Make good use of their time. []
- Feel they have a purpose. []
- Forgive others and ask for forgiveness from God and others. []
- Look forward to heaven. []
- Give generously. []



HIGHLIGHT

Nehemiah 8: 10 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!'

Psalms 43:4 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'There I will go to the altar of God, to God-the source of all my joy.'

SECOND HALF

- 1) Take time to read the first HIGHLIGHT verse again. Next, look at the TRAINING TIPS bullets on 'qualities of genuinely fun - happy people'. Try and match as many of the bulleted 'qualities' to the experiences of the seventy two disciples.
- 2) What advice would you give to in-coming students on how to have lasting fun in their academic experience?
 -
 -
 -
- 3) Where does Nehemiah, in the above HIGHLIGHT, say our strength comes from? Why?
- 4) Rate (1-10) how well you do in the bulleted TRAINING TIPS above: 'People who have fun and take real pleasure in life are people who:'



ACTION PLAN

In your words finish the sentences below. Next, pray and make a plan on how you can put these challenges into your life - have fun!

- I know for certain that I am going to heaven: yes - no
- I want to share my joy with _____.



-
- I am going to pursue personal growth in _____
_____ area of my life.
 - I will seek to judge my performance on my own merit and
not _____ myself to others.
 - I am grateful for _____.
 - I will take care of mind, body and spirit this week
by _____.
 - I will absorb myself in helping others by _____.
 - I will take time to become aware of Gods gifts to me and
the world by _____.
 - I will deeply trust in God in this part of my life:
_____.
 - I will make good use of my time by _____.
 - I will pray for guidance and ask God to reveal his
_____ in my life.
 - I will forgive others and ask God and others to forgive me
for _____.
 - I will take time this week to imagine how fun it will be in
heaven.

Team Meeting 12



EXECUTION

GAME PLAN

Our intention in this study is to search how we can transform the ideas of the Christian life into everyday actions.

REVIEW

The people who have fun and take real pleasure in life are people who: name a few points from the last study.

HIGHLIGHT

James 1:22-27 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the





perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you..."

FIRST HALF

1. In your own words explain what it means to put ideas into actions (execution).
2. Give a couple of examples of people that have translated ideas into action.
3. Why is it that some people do not get enough traction in life and never seem to get where they want to go?
4. Are there people that go to church week after week and listen to good preaching but never do anything about it?
5. How can you put your faith into action?

TRAINING TIPS

Execution: the art of getting from point A to point B'; the act of performing; of doing something effectively; using knowledge and action as distinguished from merely knowing it.

In our HIGHLIGHT verses the writer James challenges us to put words into action - to execute, to live out the Christian faith. He could care less if we wrote down our goals and the forgot all about them - he is an activist who calls people "self-deceived" who say they are committed to do something but never do it.

Because he doesn't want anyone to miss 'practicing what they preach', he suggests several ideas on how to live-out the Christian life including:

- feed and cloth the poor
- never show favoritism
- control your conversations
- pray for the sick and those in need
- humble yourself before God
- pray for wisdom
- let God exalt you - never brag

Goals need to be reviewed and analyzed - ask your self:

- Have I spent time thoughtfully thinking out and writing down my goals?
- Have I reviewed my goals this week?
- Have I asked for help in achieving my goal?
- Do I have someone that will keep me accountable for accomplishing my goals?





HIGHLIGHT

John 14: 25-26 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative-that is, the Holy Spirit-he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.'
 Jesus



SECOND HALF

- 1) In Theme 1 you were encouraged to write down your goals
 - What are some spiritual goals you have set for yourself?

- 2) Prayer, Bible-Study, Fellowship (encouraging other Christians and being encouraged by other Christians), and Sharing your Faith, are all 'must have goals' for Christians. How are you doing in those areas?

- 3) Are there ways you can help the poor this week?

- 4) Are your words encouraging or discouraging?

- 5) Have you been praying for wisdom? If yes: what wisdom have you received?

- 6) Give an example of someone who never brags about their achievements:

ACTION PLAN

Jesus said, *'All who love me will obey me'*. Take time this week to examine and plan out how you will turn God's Word into your actions. Next, write down a few things you would like to achieve and then execute those goals. Check-off some of the actions you have accomplished. Our next study will be a lot more fun if you take time and live out your faith!



Team Meeting 13



MENTAL TOUGHNESS 'the mind of Christ'

GAME PLAN

Our purpose of this session is to explore how Christ is our model in the important area of mental toughness.

REVIEW

In our last study we stressed 'Execution': putting your faith into action. Any examples of how you or your friends were able to put your faith into action?

HIGHLIGHT

1 Corinthians 2:9 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'For, "Who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to



teach him?"

But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.'



FIRST HALF

- 1) Are you a morning or night person?
- 2) Why is mental toughness important in sport?
- 3) Who is the mentally toughest person you know? Describe.
- 4) Finish the following statements:
 - Being mentally tough does not mean...
 - I can be tough and ...
 - I want to be tougher in ... areas of my life.



TRAINING TIPS

Mental Toughness: strenuous, disciplined, and hard to beat: to endure the experience - toughness that outlasts tough-times.

Who was tougher than Jesus Christ? It may be popular to think of Jesus as a sweet man that never offended anyone. That is far from the reality of the New Testament. He was never afraid to speak the truth. Jesus, endured forty days of fasting in a harsh wilderness, he showed incredible self-restraint when he was often falsely slandered. His ultimate act of mental toughness was to sacrifice his life and take on the sin of the world. To

possess mental toughness that outlasts tough-times, we must have the mind of Christ.

Matthew 27:30-31

'And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.'

Let the force be with you!

The Apostle Paul explains, in his book to the first letter to the Corinthian church, that we must have the 'mind of Christ' (review top HIGHLIGHT) to understand the mysteries of God and life. Imagine today that you were competing in a ten million dollar, world Grand Champion chess match - you would get slaughtered. But suppose you were able to combine and enjoy the mind of the greatest chess player of history with your mind. Now you have a chance!

We see in the scriptures that many who intimately knew Christ gained hope, determination, strength, and confidence. Why? The power the followers received was dependent on God not on them. King David wrote: 'The Lord is my light and my salvation...the Lord is the strength of my life.' Their confidence was built on the understanding that the Creator is our source of strength, power and guidance.

As you mature as a Christian, you will experience many profound changes in your thinking. Your standards, desires and attitudes become very different from what it once was. Your previous way of thinking is replaced by the "mind of Christ" - God's heart is becoming your own.

Through the Holy Spirit, reading God's Word, enjoying time with God (prayer) and allowing the Lord to discipline and shape you into his disciple, He will chip away the rough edges of your character and slowly transforms you into the tough mindedness

of Christ. Ultimately there is a mystical quality to the Christian life, be still and listen for that still quiet inner voice.



HIGHLIGHT

Romans 8:6 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.'



SECOND HALF

- 1) Again, who is your favorite athlete (one that participates in your sport)?
- 2) How would your sport be different if you could have the mind of your favorite athlete? Explain?
- 3) In your words, how do you get the 'mind of Christ'?
- 4) With Christ influencing your life how would it be different? Explain?
- 5) In what areas would you be tougher with the mind of Christ?



ACTION PLAN

Our theme is mental toughness: the mental strength that endures and is hard to beat - the mind of Christ! Have you asked the Holy Spirit into your life? Are you allowing the Spirit to guide you and transform you? Have you listened and obeyed that supernatural quiet voice that the Spirit gives? Have you been listening to God speak to you through His book? Make a determined effort to allow the mind of Christ to change you and allow you to grow strong-tough in Christ!

Team Meeting 14



"SUCCESS"

GAME PLAN

Our purpose of this session is to explore how we can be successful Christians in and out of competition.

REVIEW

Mental toughness: give an example of someone that showed mental toughness (the mind of Christ) this week?

HIGHLIGHT

MATTHEW 25 14 - 30 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to*



one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

“The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

FIRST HALF

- 1) If you could go to dinner with anyone and anywhere, where would you go and who would you take?
- 2) Who is the most talented person you know?
- 3) What does the term talent mean to you?
- 4) Where does talent come from?
- 5) Are we to be responsibility with our talent?
- 6) Have you ever seen people waste their talent?





TRAINING TIPS

Success: a sense of 'turn out well', have a favorable result, to advance, accomplishment of desired end - succession. To maximize your talent to the best of your ability.

Our above HIGHLIGHT verses, Parable of the Talents, shows what happens to two people who accepted God's invitation. They worked hard and with God's help, doubled their investment. The man who hid his talent in the ground is like those who opt for the status quo and waste precious opportunities. They refuse to work at the potential that God has given them and thus miss out and even hinder their opportunity to succeed.

Jesus parable of the talents speaks about making the most of your abilities for God's purposes. Maybe your talent is being a good friend; perhaps you are a gifted student or athlete. You may be a natural leader or coach. The Bible clearly teaches that the source of your talent is a gift from God. A talent that should be invested in God's Kingdom - not 'buried' or wasted.

Many peoples false idea of success actually takes them further from true success. God does not measure success the way man does; He also gives us supernatural power. "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20. Through prayer, ask God to work His "mighty power" in you. Over time if we are faithful we will see the power of God in our daily lives.

The "Parable of the Talents" teach us there are two types of people:

- The person who carefully invests their time and talent to serve God.
- The person who either squanders or buries their talent.

Those who live for themselves cannot expect to be treated the same as those who serve God. When we ignore, squander or abuse what we are given we are rebellious and deserve to be punished. Those that use their talent to the best of their ability and direct it towards God's purposes are rewarded and given more talents.

HIGHLIGHT

Ephesians 5:15-17 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter) *'So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.'*

SECOND HALF

- 1) Who do you know who really uses their talents for the Lord?
- 2) How can your athletic ability be used for The Lord?
- 3) In your Words how do you define success?
- 4) What talents would you like to use to serve God?
- 5) What can you do right now with the talent you have to impact His Kingdom?

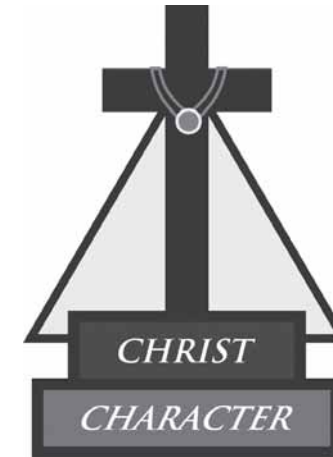


ACTION PLAN

Everybody has talent. It may not be as high profile as some peoples gifting but you are talented.

- Ask yourself how you can best invest your talent for God. If you are struggling with this one ask a mature friend-pastor-coach for help.
- Pray this week for 'power' and make the most of every 'opportunity' to use your talent for God. That way you will always have success.

Team Meeting 15

**COURAGE****GAME PLAN**

Our purpose of this session is to explore how we find courage and encourage others in-and-out of competition.

REVIEW

Do you have to be loaded with talent to be successful for God? Explain?

HIGHLIGHT

Psalm 31:24 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
"Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD"

John 14:1-7

'Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.'

'No, we don't know, Lord,' Thomas said. 'We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!'



FIRST HALF

- 1) What animal fits your personality most: puppy-dog, lion, eagle, turtle, dolphin.....other?
- 2) What types of courage do you admire in others?
- 3) Can you give an example of a courageous person you know?
- 4) If you had to die in some courageous act what would you like to be doing?

TRAINING TIPS

Courage: common metaphor for inner strength.

Courage is often associated with saving lives from a burning building or jumping on a bomb. These are admiral deeds, which demand respect; but there is more to courage. Everyone has opportunity to exercise courage. Courage is the skill of drawing together the will, emotions, thoughts and activities to face a formidable opponent. The opponent may be peer pressure, it may be disease, it may be fear. Courage is the willingness to say and do the right thing regardless of the earthly cost, because God promises to help you on account of Christ. An act takes courage if it will likely be painful. The pain may be physical, as in war or rescue. The pain may be the embarrassment, mental abuse you take for being loyal to a friend, or for taking a stand on a certain issue.



How can you find inner strength-courage?

1. Knowing our Lord has already given us his victory; we only have to have trust Christ. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the assurance of our redemption. His victory is the affirmation of our victory.
2. This victory is not reliant on our good works, but on what Christ did for us on the cross. All we offer God is faith in him and the floundering hands of a drowning person. Jesus said, 'Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me'
3. We don't need to be anxious about the road ahead. God will be with us every step of our journey. He will not give-up-on-us or renounce us. He will escort us to his home to be with him for eternity. That doesn't mean the road ahead won't have challenges; it just means that we won't have to face those challenges alone.
4. To be given courage is to be encouraged. You must find people who will encourage you to follow Christ and you must at the same time find others to encourage.



HIGHLIGHT

Proverbs 10:21 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'The words of the godly encourage many.'



SECOND HALF

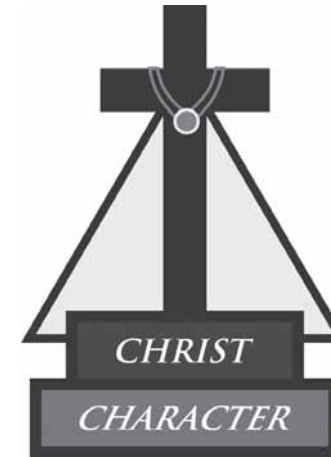
- 1) If courage is 'inner strength', can we be strong and courageous in some areas of our life and cowards in other areas of our life? Explain?
- 2) Does courage mean not having fear?
- 3) What is one area of your life you would like to be more courageous - inner strength?
- 4) Can you give examples from the Bible or history of Christians who have had inner-strength and faced fear with courage?
- 5) If to be given courage is to be encouraged: Who encourages you to follow Christ? Who can you encourage to follow Christ?



ACTION PLAN

This week remember that if you trust in Christ you have victory and no one can steal that from you. Find your inner-strength from God, and ask God to give you a few people that you can encourage to live for him.

Team Meeting 16



"ATTITUDE"

GAME PLAN

Our intention of this our last theme in Series 1, is to investigate how we can have great attitude: to, 'Put on your new nature, created to be like God-truly righteous and holy.'

REVIEW

We studied in our previous session that 'Courage' is inner-strength and comes in many forms. How can we receive more courage?

HIGHLIGHT

Ephesians 4:22-24 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
'Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former





way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God-truly righteous and holy.'

FIRST HALF

- 1) Share a funny routine you have. How long have you done it?
- 2) If you were given an old junky car to restore what model would you want and what color would you paint it?
- 3) Who are some of the best types of people to be around? Why?
- 4) What types of attitudes do you need for a successful team?
- 5) From our above HIGHLIGHT verse: 'let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes...', what does that mean to you?
- 6) What attitudes communicate your love for those closest to you?

Fill in the blank in your own words....

- Attitude is how we _____ others.
- Attitude is the way we _____ life.
- _____ is contagious.
- Attitude is how we _____ to challenges.

TRAINING TIPS

Attitude: the behavior reflecting an individuals feeling or opinion. *'Let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.'*

Having a great attitude is the ability to draw-out the appropriate thoughts and responses which are valuable to perform your immediate task and situation.

Our trust in Jesus gives us strength to consistently make useful and helpful meaning out of the circumstances, events, and relationships, we experience in life. Knowing, 'God loves me, wants the best for me, and that He is in control', gives us an inner power, which creates a healthy and appropriate attitude. People with healthy attitudes often live life enthusiastically and work efficiently with confidence, resourcefulness, and desire to help others. They are energetic, and compassionate. They 'let the Holy Spirit renew their thoughts and attitudes'. As a Christian we can throw off negative attitudes and as Paul said, 'Put on your new nature, created to be like God-truly righteous and holy.' Imagine you have an old rusted out car that you can restore to its former glory - even make it better. Allowing the Holy Spirit to restore you and return you to the way God designed you before sin corrupted the human race.

'Positive attitude is sometimes hard to describe but these people seem to have their head up, shoulders back, smile, and move more quickly and with purpose.' Drew Wood



'We were 'created to be like God'.

- to speak truth
- let God's love control you
- work hard
- do good
- give generously
- be kind & tenderhearted
- let everything you say be good and helpful
- speak words that will be an encouragement to those who hear them
- desire to please God's Holy Spirit by the way you live
- remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.
- forgiving - just as God through Christ has forgiven you

People with great attitudes tend to solve problems quickly and do not dwell on the past. People who keep a positive attitude give the impression they have an inner compass that is drawing them to their desired purpose like a force of gravity. People with this capacity choose the appropriate response regardless of the circumstance.



HIGHLIGHT

Philippians 2: 14 - 15 (for a bigger picture read the whole chapter)
 'For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.'

SECOND HALF

- 1) Does a great attitude mean always being cheery? Why/why not?
- 2) What were some of the attitudes Jesus had regardless of the circumstances?
- 3) Why does - 'Knowing God loves me, wants the best for me, and that He is in control' - give us power to have a great attitude?
- 4) From both our HIGHLIGHT verses, how does God help us to develop and keep a great attitude?



ACTION PLAN

Attitude is the ability to draw-out the appropriate thoughts and responses which are valuable to perform your immediate task and situation. Ask God for help as you respond to the circumstances that come your way. Review all sixteen themes and thank God for the opportunity to be challenged to live a life of good character.

