

FCA Sports Camp

Doing Sports God's Way



“You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul**, all your **mind**, and all your **strength**.

You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**”

Mark 12:30-31

DSGW Topics

1. Ambition – “All your strength”
2. The Goal – “All your mind”
3. Motivation – “All your heart”
4. Winning & Losing – “All your soul”
5. Teamwork – “Love your neighbor as yourself”

1. AMBITION – “ALL YOUR STRENGTH”

Theme Verse:

“Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:9

Theme Overview:

Ambition is “a strong desire to do or to achieve something.” A person’s ambition is demonstrated by their effort or strength. It will determine how a person uses their God-given abilities!

Theme Teaching Point:

In Christ, the ambition of our life is to give God the glory, and only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we truly glorify God in competition!

Theme Questions:

- What is the difference between godly and worldly ambition? (pride vs humility)
- What is glory? How do we glorify God in our sport?
- Where do you find strength to compete as Christ would?
- Has your ambitions helped or hindered your performances?
- How can you make it your ambition to “be pleasing to Him” in all you do?

More if needed:

John 15:1-5

Once an athlete understands their aim in life or that their ambition is to glorify God in sports and life, the next question is how does this look? Fruitfulness has always been the test of true salvation and helps the Christian athlete understand how they can glorify God in their sport. The Master knows our character by our spiritual fruits, just as “a tree is known by its fruit – either good or bad” Matthew 12:33

Are you spiritually fruitful in your sport?

2. THE GOAL – “ALL YOUR MIND”

Theme Verse:

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...” Romans 8:29

Theme Overview:

If our ambition in sports is to glorify God then we must make it our goal to be “conformed to the image of Jesus”. A goal is “the object or result of a person’s ambition or effort” Goals are set or formed in a person’s mind.

Theme Teaching Point:

God’s goal for us when competing is to become like Christ!

Theme Questions:

- How do you mentally prepare for competition?
- What goals have you set in sports?
- Does your goal bring out the best in you in every situation? (most worldly goals are circumstantial)
- Is your goal different from God’s goal for you?
- When you compete are you becoming more like Christ? Why or why not?

More if needed:

An athlete has control of their effort, concentration, and attitude.

The word “conformed” in the scripture above describes an inner process of development. It does not happen overnight. A life style of doing things Jesus’ Way takes time to develop, but you can start today. The process of be more like Jesus is an action that God Himself causes to happen to you. However, you do have a responsibility.

First, God wants you to conduct yourself the way Jesus Christ conducted Himself while He was walking the earth. *“Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk and conduct himself in the same way in which He walked and conducted Himself.”* 1 John 2:6. Second, God wants you to be a personal representative of Jesus Christ. *“So we are Christ’s ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us.”* 2 Corinthians 5:20. God’s goal is to conform you into the likeness of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this goal, Jesus must be your life’s model.

How can you be more like Christ when you compete?

3. MOTIVATION – “ALL YOUR HEART”

Theme Verse:

“For the love of Christ compels us....” 2 Corinthians 5:14

Theme Overview:

Motivation is “the reason or reasons one has for acting or behaving in a particular way.” It is the fuel that drives a person to pursue their goals and ambitions. One’s motivation determines the character of their goals and ambitions.

Theme Teaching Point:

The most powerful motivator for an athlete is a loving response to God’s love for us displayed on the cross!

Theme Questions:

- What is an example of worldly motivation in sports? (personal recognition, revenge, fear, anger)
- How are these things weak in motivating us or bringing out our best? (circumstantial/sinful)
- What motivated Jesus to die on the cross for us? (love)
- What should motivate us as Christian athletes?
- How does the love of Christ and what he did on the cross motivate you each day both on and off the field?

More if needed:

Romans 12:1

There are 5 main points that will help us understand about how God wants us to be motivated to represent Jesus –

- 1) *“Present”* means to turn over to someone else the control of something you have.
- 2) The word *“bodies”* refers to your physical body. ALL your physical characteristics, including your athletic abilities.
- 3) The phrase *“a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God,”* describes the quality of what you give to God. “Sacrifice” emphasizes you totally giving up what you present to God. He is to have complete use and control of what you give Him.
- 4) The phrase *“spiritual service of worship”* describes any form of service that is an expression of your love and respect for God.
- 5) *“By the mercies of God”* tells WHY you should want to express your love and respect to God through your sport. God’s love shown to you on the cross.

How can you apply this verse to a practice or game?

4. WINNING & LOSING – “ALL YOUR SOUL”

Theme Verse:

“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” Mark 8:36

Theme Overview:

A person’s view on winning and losing is important. People will sell their soul for winning or losing as the world defines it. Success is defined differently in God’s eyes.

Theme Teaching Point:

Christians must see winning and losing as God sees it: to maximize our talents for his glory!

Theme Questions:

- How do you define winning and losing in sports?
- Was there a time you “won” on the scoreboard but it felt like a loss?
- Could your definition of winning limit your potential? How?
- How should a Christian define success in sports?
- How can we maximize your talents for God’s glory?

More if needed:

Brett Favre is considered one of the best QB’s in NFL history. He is at top of the list for most TD passes, but also at the top for most interceptions. Michael Jordan is one of the greatest NBA players ever. He made many last second game-winning shots, but he missed three times as many as he made.

Were these players successful? Why or why not?

Matthew 6:19-21

In sports, it can be easy to become distracted by the temporary treasures of this world, but God calls us to invest in eternity where there is real and lasting treasure.

How can sports be an opportunity to invest in eternity?

5. TEAMWORK – “YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF”

Theme Verse:

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3

Theme Overview:

Teamwork is “the combined action of a group of people, especially when effective and efficient.” Team is a powerful word where people come together in humility for a common goal and bring out the best in each other.

Theme Teaching Point:

Christians must seek to put the team above themselves in humility as Christ modeled this in dying for us on the cross!

Theme Questions:

- What makes a great team?
- Why is humility important on a team?
- How can you grow in being a better teammate by putting the team above yourself?
- How can the example of Jesus Christ motivate you to be a great teammate?

More if needed:

There’s a story of men who raised oxen putting on a competition to see who was the strongest ox. After all the ox had pulled their weight, the strongest ox could pull up to 9,000 lbs. To prove a point one of the older oxen farmers got two of the strongest oxen together and asked what how much weight they thought these oxen could pull? Most thought 18,000-20,000lbs. However, the two oxen together could pull up to 27,000lbs. Nearly 3x’s the weight one ox can pull. There’s a lesson to learn hear about teamwork. Synergy means the whole is greater than the sum of its individual parts. That’s a team!

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!...” Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Who are people in your life who “lift you up”? Are you someone who lifts other up?