



Northwest Louisiana FCA

8-Week Huddle Meeting Discussion Guide

2016-2017

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“Haven’t I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

Rise Up Tough

READY

“I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”
– John 16:33

SET

You’ve heard your coach say, “BE TOUGH!” As an athlete, you know what he means. It’s an encouragement to rise above the pain that could keep you from achieving your highest level of success.

Sometimes as a competitor, you’ll face mental challenges and have to fight emotions that bring discouragement and hopelessness. There will be times when you endure an injury that could bring physical pain and make you question whether or not you want to keep playing. Being tough is an attitude that allows you to push through mental and physical challenges that might cause others to give up.

But as a Christian athlete, the phrase, “BE TOUGH,” carries a deeper meaning that can give you success in every circumstance of life. The words of Jesus Christ in John 16:33 should be a constant reminder that He has provided a supernatural covering that will help you rise up when hard times come. He says, “Be courageous! I have conquered the world.” Jesus reminds us that adversity will come. Hard times in life will come. The question is, when will those times come? As a competitor for Christ you no longer have to worry about the answer to that question because you know that He will be right beside you.

GO

- 1 What is happening in your life right now that is challenging you to be tough?
- 2 What will be the result if you push through and persevere with Christ by your side in this challenge?
- 3 How can being tough encourage others who are watching you respond to this challenge?

WORKOUT

Philippians 4:13
1 Corinthians 2:5
2 Corinthians 9:8

OVERTIME

Ephesians 3:20
Father, remind me each day that there is no challenge in life that You will not help me through. Amen.

Rise Up Today

READY

“Then he said to the crowd, ‘If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.’”
–Luke 9:23

SET

Just before finishing at my university, I was asked to play with a Christian basketball team called Spirit Express against an all-star team of the best players from universities across Missouri. My teammates were unheralded and so few in number that we all fit in a van that arrived just in time for tipoff. The other team was the opposite—well known and a full roster with a few guys headed to the NBA. My teammates, who had never played together before, brought no agenda but Christ and team. Little David beat mighty Goliath that night.

Teamwork was key, but it started with each of us humbly forfeiting our own selfish agendas, putting to death our personal dreams, and following our coach and his game plan for the team. Similarly, Jesus, our Master Coach, recruits us to His team with a challenge: If you want to be on My team, give up your selfishness, put to death your rights and self, and follow me. Just as I can bring my own selfish agenda to a sports team, it is easy to approach Christ for what I can get. It is the opposite of His invitation to self-denial. Your lack of self-focus frees you of the demands to get your own way and makes you the teammate that others dream of playing with. Imagine a team filled with people like that!

Let the competition begin. Let the glory be God's.

GO

- 1 How can playing sports lead to selfishness?
- 2 What are some ways that Christ is calling you to turn from selfish ways?
- 3 What is holding you back from following Christ whole-heartedly?

WORKOUT

Matthew 9:9
Luke 5:11
Philippians 2:3-4

OVERTIME

Mark 10:23-31
Jesus, give me grace to turn from selfishness to follow You. Amen.

Rise Up Together

READY

“...fulfill my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, sharing the same feelings, focusing on one goal.” – Philippians 2:2

SET

Fall is a great season for many reasons: football, cooler weather, holidays, and soup! Soup? I love soup! When I order soup from a restaurant I don't approach the counter and ask for the ingredients. “I'd like a bowl of butter, onion, flour, broccoli, salt...” I ask for the soup by its name.

Soup is incredible because it takes many ingredients blended perfectly to get an irreplaceable taste. Not too much of one ingredient, nor too little of another. Each ingredient matters.

Your team is like soup. Your teammates are like multiple ingredients, blended together on a field of competition. Too much of one person and too little of another may hurt the team. You need the right contribution, the right effort, and the right blend of individual skills to create an awesome team.

When I coach or watch a sporting event, I expect to see my team play not as individuals. I want to see them succeed together. That brings joy and celebration! Just as a coach is overjoyed to see a team work in unity, Paul shared that his joy was complete when those who share in faith work together. Each of us should be striving to share God's love and focus on one goal!

You may wait until the fall for cool weather to enjoy soup, but you don't have to wait to enjoy the incredible taste of unity! Make the effort today to act on the truth that you and your teammates' roles (ingredients) matter.

GO

- 1 Do you understand you and your teammate's role on your team?
- 2 What are you doing to empower your teammates?
- 3 What are you doing to encourage your teammates?

WORKOUT

Colossians 3:14

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Acts 2:42-47

OVERTIME

Heavenly Father, thank You for creating me and my teammates with value and purpose. Give me focus and strength to work together with others. May my efforts to work in unity bring glory to Your name! Amen.

Rise Up Tomorrow

READY

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”
– Jeremiah 29:11

SET

At age two, Craig MacFarlane was blinded in a tragic accident. He turned his defeat into victory by becoming a world-class athlete who won over 100 gold medals in sports such as wrestling, track and field, downhill skiing, and even shot a 91 in golf! Craig can't see, but he has a powerful vision that fuels his drive to overcome.

Even though we can't see or predict the future, we need to face tomorrow with confidence, because God will take care of us and give us a hope. The key is to have a God vision not just a good vision. A God vision is seeing what's on God's heart and placing onto our heart. A God vision is a drive and passion that it is birthed deep in our souls and changes the way we live and compete. When we have a God vision, we can Rise Up Tomorrow.

If you want to Rise Up Tomorrow, answer these three questions:

- 1 Is your God vision too small?

If your vision doesn't terrify you, then it is too small. A God vision should be so huge that you are bound to fail unless God steps in.

- 2 Is your God vision too narrow?

If your vision doesn't include others, then it is too narrow. A God vision has to include others like friends and teammates.

- 3 Is your God vision just a daydream?

If your vision doesn't get accomplished, then it is just a daydream. A God vision always gets done.

Discover God's vision for your life and Rise Up Tomorrow!

GO

- 1 As a competitor, do you have a God vision? Write it down.
- 2 Is your vision too small? Is your vision too narrow? Is your vision just a daydream? Explain.
- 3 How can you Rise Up Tomorrow?

WORKOUT

Amos 3:7

Proverbs 29:18

OVERTIME

“God, help me to Rise Up Tomorrow. The future is unknown, but I trust You with it. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

True Success

Introduction:

What is success according to your team? Is it scoring more points than the other teams? Winning a championship? Getting the most press coverage? These are all things we desire as competitors, but they're not necessarily how Scripture defines success.

NFL quarterback Tom Brady, one of the world's most successful athletes, once said, "Why do I have three Super Bowl rings and still think there's something greater out there for me? ... There's got to be something more."

Application:

- 1 How do you define success?
- 2 How does God define success?

Bridge:

"What will it benefit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will a man give in exchange for his life?" (Matthew 16:26).

- 1 What does it mean to exchange your life for worldly things?
- 2 For what things do you exchange your life?

Connection:

- 1 According to Scripture, success means becoming more like Jesus in all that we do, including competition. That kind of success involves being the best God created you to be. Do you compare yourself to others or try to be more like Jesus every day?
- 2 Does your definition of success line up with God's definition of success? Why is this so hard?
- 3 Success comes through preparation. How can you prepare to be successful in your Christian walk?

Discovery:

Even after I'd achieved everything I wanted as a high school football player—a state championship, all-conference honors, a starting position—I still wasn't successful. I'd been measuring it all wrong. It wasn't until college when my best friend and I dove into Scripture and started realizing that earthly success meant nothing in the Kingdom of Heaven that I finally understood true success. It was this: to seek out, know and follow His ways and to become more like Jesus in every way.

When all else fades and is forgotten—those titles, awards and championships—true godly success will last.

Memory Verse: "...think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths." – Proverbs 3:6

Discipline

Introduction:

In sports today, a coach's discipline can often be perceived as needless punishment, disdain for the player, or a power trip. While some coaches are guilty of that, most of them discipline because they're attempting to help their athletes reach their potential. Unfortunately, athletes often reject discipline by ignoring their coach, quitting the team, or transferring schools. Those athletes miss out on essential lessons and never benefit from the knowledge of the coach.

Application:

- 1 Why is it important for the coach to enforce certain expectations such as, following team rules, learning the playbook, training hard and heeding instruction?
- 2 Tell about a time when you saw a teammate benefit from receiving discipline from a coach? How did the way that teammate handled discipline impact you?
- 3 What are some reasons why receiving discipline is difficult?

Bridge:

God has given us a playbook that provides everything we need to know. Second Timothy 3:16-17 says, *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."* The question then becomes whether you will reject His playbook or follow the wisdom found in Proverbs 3:11-12: *"Do not despise the Lord's instruction, my son, and do not loathe His discipline; for the Lord disciplines the one He loves, just as a father, the son he delights in."*

Connection:

- 1 Discipline is any form of instruction, training or correction that helps someone follow expectations in order to achieve the intended result.
- 2 How are your coaches and team leaders helping your team through discipline?
- 3 How does God's discipline show that He loves us?

Discovery:

- 1 Today, receive discipline in a way that positively affects your team.
- 2 Ask God to show you ways in which you are rejecting His loving discipline.
- 3 This week, commit to reading God's Word as diligently as you would your team's playbook.

Memory Verse:

"Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but one who hates correction is stupid." – Proverbs 12:1

Accountability

Introduction:

Sarah and Margo had set their sights on the NCAA Championship in the 10K. The teammates shared their goals and then agreed to work together to achieve them. All season long they pushed each other to new levels of fitness, school records and a greater faith that God would help them maximize the talents He'd given them. Whenever discouragement or setbacks occurred, the friends prayed for and encouraged one another. In the last race before the NCAAs, the teammates ran side-by-side and both qualified for the NCAA Championships. The girls achieved success by becoming accountability partners, sharing their goals and struggles, and by caring enough to make sure they each took proper steps toward overcoming those struggles to achieve the desired results.

Application:

- 1 Name some reasons why sharing goals and struggles with others can be difficult.
- 2 What are some ways your team can make it easier for individuals to share areas in which they need help?
- 3 Tell about a time when a teammate helped you overcome mistakes or negative behaviors that were costing you a chance to achieve a goal.

Bridge:

Great teammates understand the truth found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: *“Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up.”*

Connection:

- 1 Discuss how your team can benefit from establishing accountable relationships between teammates.
- 2 What are some areas in which your teammates can help you strengthen your relationship with Christ?

Discovery:

- 1 Be a trustworthy teammate that others will come to for help in overcoming obstacles and achieving their potential.
- 2 Get real with a teammate. Ask him or her to hold you accountable in overcoming personal struggles.
- 3 Ask the Lord Jesus to give you the faith and strength to fully carry out No. 1 and No. 2.

Memory Verse:

“Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts.” – Ecclesiastes 4:9

Choosing Friends

Introduction:

We live in a world in which we're constantly connected with our friends through phones, school, social media, etc. And these ongoing connections have a huge impact on our daily lives.

John Kuebler once said, “Show me your friends, and I will show you your future.” For better or worse, our friends greatly influence our decisions and choices. And the decisions and choices we make today will have an impact on our lives tomorrow. We must choose our friends wisely.

Application:

- 1 Who are some of your closest friends? Why are they your friends?
- 2 What are some qualities in a positive friendship?
- 3 What are some qualities in a negative friendship?
- 4 How much do your friends' opinions, values and thoughts influence your own?

Bridge:

The Bible gives us wisdom regarding how to choose our friends. Proverbs 13:20 says, *“The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm.”* When we choose wise friends, we make wiser choices. When we choose foolish friends, we make more foolish choices.

Connection:

- 1 Name a time when you were positively influenced by your friends.
- 2 Name a time when you were negatively influenced by your friends.
- 3 As members of a team, you have the responsibility to hang out with friends who help you make wise decisions, as this benefits you as a group. How can you as a team hold each other accountable in your friendships?

Discovery:

- 1 Pray and ask God how you can be a positive influence on your friends.
- 2 Pray and ask God if there are some friends that are influencing you in a negative way.
- 3 Pray and ask God to bring friends and/or teammates into your life who will help you make wise choices.

Memory Verse:

“No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13

FCA Today

FCA is touching millions of lives...one heart at a time. Since 1954, FCA has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high, and youth levels to use the powerful medium of athletics to impact the world for Jesus Christ. FCA is the largest Christian sports organization in the world. FCA focuses on serving local communities by equipping, empowering, and encouraging people to make a difference for Christ through our Four C's of Ministry: Coaches, Campus, Camp, and Community.

FCA Vision: To see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

FCA Mission: To present to coaches and athletes, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.

You can find out more about what is currently happening in FCA by checking out FCA.org to get the latest news on what God is doing in FCA across the world.

Ministry Fundamentals

The Ministry Fundamentals are the core competencies of our ministry and the foundation of all we do as a ministry. FCA's Ministry Fundamentals are Share, Seek, Lead, and Love.

Share Him Boldly (Acts 5:42) – FCA shares Jesus with those who do not have a personal relationship with Him. We believe that Salvation is only found in Jesus, and with great passion we desire to share the Gospel with the world. (Present Gospel)

Seek Him Passionately (Acts 17:11) – FCA equips and encourages others to seek Him daily. A life-long pursuit of knowing and loving Jesus takes perseverance and discipline. (Disciple Others)

Lead Others Faithfully (1 Corinthians 14:12) – FCA desires to model Jesus' example of serving by seeking out the needs of others, developing trusting relationships, and caring about the individuals we serve. (Reach Out)

Love Others Unconditionally (1 Peter 4:11) – FCA realizes that the most powerful force in the world is love. We desire to be obedient to the Lord as He said that we would be known by our love. (Fellowship Together)

Core Values

FCA has four Core Values that are a standard for all relationships inside and outside the ministry. These values are timeless and unchanging. Our relationships will demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word through Integrity, Serving, Teamwork, and Excellence.

FCA Core Values: Integrity, Serving, Teamwork, and Excellence

Integrity (Proverbs 11:3) – We want our leaders to demonstrate a Christ-like wholeness, privately and publicly. This means always being faithful to follow through on what you say you will do.

Serving (John 13:1-17) – We want our leaders to model Jesus' example of serving others and developing trusting relationships. This means sacrificing time and energy to be available to those for whom you are called to minister to.

Teamwork (Philippians 2:1-4) – Express our unity in Christ in all our relationships. This means being selfless and intent on the purpose of bringing glory to God in everything.

Excellence (Colossians 3:12-24) – Honor and glorify God in all we do. This means being teachable and always doing the best that you can.

Statement of Faith

FCA's Statement of Faith helps us keep Christ the center of our ministry with a clear understanding of what we believe. As a ministry, we focus on what we agree on, not what we disagree about. FCA does not deal with doctrinal differences like the gifts of the Spirit and baptism. This allows us to be inter-denominational while keeping Christ at the core of our ministry.

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. We believe that there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)
3. We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through his shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (Deity – John 1:1, 14); (Atonement – Hebrews 9:15-22); (Virgin Birth – Matthew 1:18, 25); (Bodily Resurrection – 1 Corinthians 15:18); (Sinless Life – Hebrews 4:15); (Personal Return – Hebrews 9:27-28)
4. We believe that for the Salvation of lost and sinful men (and women), regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. (John 3:16; John 5:24; Titus 3:3-7)
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (John 14:15-26; John 16:5-16; Ephesians 1:13, 14)
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost – the saved unto the resurrection of life and the lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (Matthew 25:31-46, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 2:1-4)



2016 FALL CALENDAR

Monday, August	15	Huddle Sponsor Dinner First Baptist Bossier – 6:00pm
Wednesday, September	28	See You at the Pole
Wednesday, October	12	Fields of Faith
Sunday, October	30	FCA Day - First Baptist Bossier
Tuesday, November	3	FCA Founder's Award Banquet (Chris Reis-Former NO Saint) Bossier Civic Center – 6:00pm
Saturday, December	24	Camping World Independence Bowl FCA Breakfast Bossier Civic Center



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To access more resources in leading your FCA huddle go to:

www.fcaresources.com