



Northwest Louisiana FCA

8-Week Huddle Meeting Discussion Guide

2015-2016

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LOCAL STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”
1 Corinthians 15:57

Humility Wins: Humility Beats Pride

Introduction:

Take a moment to recall a team that you either played for or against that went undefeated for several weeks of the season. Do you remember how that team seemed to view themselves? How did others see them? Were they proud and arrogant, or were they humble?

Application:

- 1 What do you remember about the attitudes of the athletes on the undefeated teams?
- 2 On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = prideful and 10 = humble), how would you rate your team's attitude?
- 3 How do attitudes of pride or humility affect a teammate's relationship with...other teammates? coaches? opponents? officials? parents?

Bridge:

Proverbs 18:12 speaks about attitudes of both pride and humility: *"Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor."*

Connection:

- 1 Why would a proud heart lead to a team's downfall?
- 2 How could that happen to an undefeated team?
- 3 What would be a better attitude for a highly achieving team?
- 4 Why would honor come to a team after it demonstrates humility?

Discovery:

- 1 Guard your attitude when you compete for or against an undefeated team.
- 2 Lead your teammates toward wise humility and away from foolish pride.
- 3 Trust God with the results of each competition and each season. He honors the humble.

Memory Verse:

"Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall."

– Proverbs 16:18

Truth Wins: Truth Beats Lies

Introduction:

The best relationships are firmly rooted in honesty and in telling each other the truth. Great sports teams are no different. Many undefeated teams are built on strong, truthful relationships between teams and their coaches. Things break down quickly for a team when lies are told or when the truth is withheld among teammates and kept from coaches.

Application:

- 1 What happens to your team when someone is less than truthful with teammates or coaches?
- 2 How do lies affect the relationships of teammates?
- 3 What kinds of lies cause the greatest damage on sports teams?
- 4 How does telling the truth help a team avoid such damage?

Bridge:

The Proverbs have timeless wisdom for our teams. Proverbs 12:19 says, *"Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue, only a moment."*

Connection:

- 1 Why would truthful speech endure?
- 2 What are some lies you've heard about your teammates or coaches that only lasted a moment before being proven wrong?
- 3 Among your teammates, who consistently tells the truth even when it hurts?

Discovery:

- 1 Commit to telling the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), even when it is difficult for others to hear.
- 2 Wisely and carefully expose lies and restore the relationships affected by them.
- 3 Trust God's promise that truthful speech will endure while lies will blow away like dust.

Memory Verse:

"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"

– John 8:31-32

Love Wins: Love Beats Fear

Introduction:

A team that remains undefeated for an extended amount of time not only experiences success on the field, but also develops a strong bond of love for one another. Some people believe that this love is the result of success, but more often than not it's the love among teammates that actually produces the success.

Application:

- 1 Tell about a team you played for that had a strong bond of love.
- 2 How would it be to play with a team that was driven by fear? What things could a team fear?
- 3 How is love a better team motivator than fear?

Bridge:

Check out the encouragement the Apostle Paul gave to his young friend Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:7: *“For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”*

Connection:

- 1 What happens to a team when it competes in a spirit of fear?
- 2 What would it be like to play for a team that plays with... power? love? sound judgment?
- 3 Which of those three best describes how your team competes?

Discovery:

- 1 When fear rises up in you, remember God's truth from 2 Tim. 1:7:
 - Fear is not from Him.
 - He gives you power for taking appropriate action.
 - He gives you love for your teammates and coaches.
 - He gives you sound judgment for making wise decisions.

Memory Verse:

“By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” – John 13:35

Faith Wins: Faith Beats Doubt

Introduction:

Undefeated teams are usually characterized by unshakeable confidence in their ability to defeat any opponent. They have no doubt they'll be victorious! A team that doubts itself usually finds reasons to lose and excuses to perform poorly.

Application:

- 1 How do you see your team? Is it full of faith or plagued with doubt?
- 2 What factors have built your team's faith or fueled its doubt?
- 3 How can a team feed its faith and quench its doubt?

Bridge:

By reading Mark 4:35-41 we can observe how Jesus and His disciples demonstrated faith and doubt: *“On that day, when evening had come, He told them, ‘Let's cross over to the other side of the sea.’ So they left the crowd and took Him along since He was already in the boat. And other boats were with Him. A fierce windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke Him up and said to Him, ‘Teacher! Don't You care that we're going to die?’*

“He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Silence! Be still!’ The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Then He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful? Do you still have no faith?’

“And they were terrified and asked one another, ‘Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey Him!’”

Connection:

- 1 What did the disciples do and say that evidenced their doubt and fear?
- 2 What were the results of Jesus' faith overcoming the disciples' doubts?
- 3 How can your team leaders exercise faith in the midst of doubt and fear?

Discovery:

- 2 Lead in ways that inspire faith in your teammates.
- 3 Speak in ways that diminish your teammates' doubts.
- 4 Feed your teammates' minds with faith-building truth, and build their hearts to dispel doubts.

Memory Verse:

“Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.”
– Hebrews 11:1

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)



2015 FALL CALENDAR

Monday, August	24	Huddle Sponsor Dinner First Baptist Bossier – 6:00pm
Thursday, September	17	Dr. Jack Witte Golf Day East Ridge Country Club
Wednesday, September	23	See You at the Pole
Wednesday, October	14	Fields of Faith
Friday, October	16	Woodlawn Movie Contact FCA Staff about sending your team!
Sunday, November	8	FCA Day - First Baptist Bossier Woodlawn Movie RB as Guest Speaker
Tuesday, November	10	FCA Founder's Award Banquet (Neal Jeffrey/Beth Torina) Bossier Civic Center – 6:00pm
Thursday, 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