



Volleyball 2014
Team Devotional
Guide

A Note from the Pastor

Few things in life afford real satisfaction. People often spend their time, talents, and energy seeking to accomplish things that leave them feeling empty once completed. I believe the reason satisfaction remains elusive for so many people is due, at least in part, to misplaced priority.

Coach, I know your busy. We all are. But even amid your hectic schedule, you have chosen to invest time in the students playing volleyball this season. I trust your willingness is associated with your understanding of Kingdom priority. You realize the investment of your time into the lives of these students, training them with the necessary volleyball skills to be competitive on the court and training them in the Word of God, will pay eternal dividends.

My prayer for you this season is simple..."Lord Jesus, may each Coach find satisfaction and joy in serving You this season by faithfully training each member of the team to honor You in everything they do." Please know that as you pray for your team members this year that I will be interceding for you with our Heavenly Father.

Your sacrifices will not go unnoticed this season. Our Pray then Play staff will recognize all that you do for the Kingdom of God. Even more importantly, Jesus has His eyes on you and is taking notice of your service. Make Him proud, Coach. Love these kids. Invest in them. Help them succeed on and off of the volleyball court!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Derek

Week One

The goal of this team devotional is to encourage every member of the team, including players, coaches, and parents, to be **CHRISTLIKE**. Paul challenged the church in Philippi by declaring their "attitudes should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." (Phil 2:5 NIV) Being like Jesus is no easy task. We all battle our flesh and struggle to crucify our own will. Yet, Jesus empowers us to grow in His likeness.

Each letter of **CHRISTLIKE** will be used to guide us through our study this season on our quest to be more like Jesus.

C

Character

Guiding Concept: Character is more valuable than winning!

Bible Passage: Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Cor. 15:33 NIV)

Winning is fun! But, winning is not everything! The more important and valuable goal to achieve is an honorable life. Surround yourself with people who love Jesus. We need people who will encourage us to live lives that reflect the glory of the Lord to the world.

Questions to Consider: Are you more concerned with winning a game than living to please Jesus? Are there people in your life that are corrupting you? Does your life corrupt or point others to Christ? What changes must you make in your life to develop a character more like that of Christ Jesus?

Week Two

Remind your team of the importance of godly character. Ask if they made any changes in their lives in order to look more like Christ. Share your personal testimony of transforming your character. Encourage each person as they apply themselves to Christ likeness.

Help

Guiding Concept: Jesus can help you win @ Life!

**Bible Passage: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
(Mt 11:30 ESV)**

Life is filled with challenges. Life can be like volleyball. On the court, teams face opponents and must struggle against the other team to win the game. The competition creates a friction or tension between the teams. The challenges of life offer a similar friction. While you are in school you have demands to study, you are responsible for chores at home, and you enjoy free time. Don't forget, you also need to nurture your relationship with Christ each day. Sometimes it feels that we just can't do it all... But there is good news, Jesus can help. Trust Him. Follow Him in obedience by applying His word to your life.

Questions to Consider: Do you feel overwhelmed at times with so many demands on your time? Name areas of your life where you can save some time (ex. not watching TV).

Week Three

Our culture seems to frown on anyone who would seek to hold others accountable. Unfortunately, disgust for accountability has become part of the church culture as well. Although our society seems to shy away from accountability, we are no less called to be responsible beings for the glory of God.

Responsibility

Guiding Concept: Own your actions....how you live matters!

Bible Passage: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Cor. 5:10 ESV)

Each member of the team has responsibilities. In order for teams to be most effective, every member must do their part. When one team member decides not to fulfill his/her responsibilities...the entire team suffers. The same is true in other areas of life. We each must decide to live responsibly in order that we ensure we are helping those around us instead of hurting them. Living a life for Jesus includes fulfilling our responsibilities at home, at church, at school, on the team, at work, and everywhere else. God is calling us to live lives that honor Him.

Questions to Consider: Have you neglected some of your responsibilities? Have you let people down because you have not done as you promised to do? In what areas must you change to become more responsible?

Week Four

It happens to all of us! Moments come when we just feel like quitting. We wonder if it's worth all the trouble. For you, it might be this volleyball season, maybe its school, perhaps your home life is not what you would like for it to be...BUT, you can't just quit. You're too valuable to just walk away. Your task is not impossible. You can do this!

Impossible

Guiding Concept: Remove it from your vocabulary!

Bible Passage: I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Phil 4:13 ESV)

As believers, we have the Spirit of God living inside of us. We are not dependent on our own strength, rather we draw from His. If we attempt to do things ourselves we will quickly discover them to be IMPOSSIBLE. What the Bible encourages us to do is depend upon the LORD for our strength. For with Him the "IMPOSSIBLE" becomes "HIM POSSIBLE" because we can do all things through Him. Turn over your difficulties to Him today. Whatever they are, let them go...

Questions to Consider: Have you refused to try for fear of failure? Have you been trying to "Fix" things yourself? Why not let go today and allow Him to demonstrate His great power in your life.

Week Five

Coaches, remind the students of your desire to see them grow in Christ likeness. Share with them areas of your life where you have had to declare the **POSSIBILITY** of God in the midst of the **IMPOSSIBILITY** of yourself. Help them see you as a real person that has your own set of challenges that you are bringing before the **LORD**.

Study

Guiding Concept: It ain't gonna hurt ya!

Bible Passage: Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15 NASB)

Playing volleyball takes dedication. If you are going to excel you will spend hours preparing to perform your best during the games. Practice, practice, practice! Similarly, to become all that God desires us to be, we must apply ourselves. Study, study, study! We grow in likeness to Christ as we grow in knowledge of who He is. We must apply ourselves to reading His Word. His Word, the Bible, reveals Jesus to us.

Questions to Consider: On average, how much time do you spend preparing for volleyball matches each week? On average, how long do you spend reading the Bible? What activities can you devote less time to in order to have more time in the Word?

Week Six

Ask your team if they made any significant changes to their lives in order to spend more time in the Word. Share with them what God has been speaking to you in your own personal quiet time with the LORD. Challenge them to intensify their relationship with Christ.

Talent

Guiding Concept: God created you for His glory!

Bible Passage: And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17 ESV)

God has gifted you with some amazing talents! Though we do not all possess the same gifts, we each have our own gifts. Some are more athletic than others. Some of you enjoy expressing yourself through the arts. One talent is not necessarily better than the others. God created you just as you are. He loves you. What is more, He has given you talents that you might use them for His glory. We often grow discouraged because we do not possess certain gifts, yet we should be encouraged because of the talents we do have!

Questions to Consider: Are you using your talents for the Lord? How might you use your particular gifts to bring glory and honor to God? Celebrate the gifts of others, but do not forget to celebrate your own!

Week Seven

We live in a big world populated with over 7 billion people. It is hard to imagine that many people! Even with so many people the Bible declares that God loves the world(meaning all the people in the world!) so much that He sent His Son to die for all of us

(Jn 3:16). God loves each of the members of your team too. He desires to pour His love onto each one of them in order for them to know Him in a personal way through His Son, Jesus Christ. Talk to your team about God's love for them today.

Love

Guiding Concept: Show 'em some love!

Bible Passage: By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:35 ESV)

The Bible declares that God is Love, therefore, If you desire to be like Christ we must love people. God has demonstrated how we are to love. We are to love others the way Christ loves us. I know, that sounds IMPOSSIBLE, and without God it is, but we can love people because Jesus empowers us. People will recognize Jesus in you only to the degree that you love them as He does. In our quest for Christ likeness let us purpose in our hearts to love people intentionally.

Questions to Consider: How can you show the love of Christ while playing a volleyball match? at home? in School? Discuss ways in which you have failed to show the love of Christ...

Week Eight

The next two devotionals are designed to communicate the Gospel to your team. Be intentional about the moments you prepare and exactly what you share during these two sessions. Helping each member hone their volleyball skills is a good thing. Teaching them a few Bible verses is also helpful. But nothing is more important nor more valuable than inviting them to respond in faith to the Gospel. Pray for each of them by name these next two weeks. Be prepared to walk interested students through Scripture to introduce them to Christ.

Imitate

Guiding Concept: Just do what Jesus did!

Bible Passage: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20 ESV)

In order to live as Christ we must first be crucified with Him. That does not mean that we nail ourselves to a tree like Jesus was. What it does mean though is that we no longer live to please our flesh. We crucify to desires of our own bodies. We must choose to live for Him instead of for ourselves. When we yield our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, He begins living inside of us through His Spirit. He provides strength, direction, encouragement, and conviction from within.

Questions for Consideration: Have you been saved from your sin by the blood of Jesus Christ?

Week Nine

Coach, some members of your team may not be able to imitate Jesus because they have never professed faith. Remember, some of the children are not connected to a church family. The devotionals you have led them through this season may be the only exposure to the Bible some of them ever experience. Make it count! Today's lesson is HUGE. Pray before you begin to talk to the team for the Holy Spirit to begin working on each of their hearts.

Know

Guiding Concept: It's not what ya know...it's WHO ya know!

Bible Passage: if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.

(Rom 10:9-11 ESV)

Jesus died for the sins of all people. Paul wrote in Romans that everyone has sinned, including you and me. Our sin separates us from God. Although Jesus died for everyone, not everyone has confessed Him as Lord while believing in their heart that God raised Him from the dead. According to today's passage, just knowing about Jesus is not enough. God is calling people to be born again. In order to be saved, we must confess Jesus as Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead.

Questions to Consider: Have you ever confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord? Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? Would you like to do so now?

Week Ten

We have reached the final week of devotional material and hopefully the end of a GREAT volleyball season too! I trust my prayers have been answered as I asked the Lord to help you find both satisfaction and joy as you coached your team. Remember, investments of the Word of God made into the lives of people offer eternal dividends which bring God glory. Continue to choose wisely how you spend your time, talents, and energy. Invest wisely. Blessings...

Eternity

Guiding Concept: Be certain 'cause it will last forever!

Bible Passage: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

(Jn 14:1-3ESV)

A decision to follow Christ is the most significant choice of a person's life. One's choice of which college to attend, career, and who to marry, although very important choices, are not as important as choosing to follow Christ. Jesus has promised an eternal home with Him to each that professes faith in Him. Following Christ is an eternal decision which gives it precedence over all other decisions.

Questions to Consider: Last week we looked at Romans 10:9-11. Have you ever professed faith in Jesus Christ? Has He forgiven all your sin? If so, have you publicly professed faith by being baptized?

Prayer List:

List each member of your team along with needs you recognize in their lives over which you can begin praying.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Notes:

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