

BASE
MINISTRY



VICTORY
BEYOND
THE CUP

Coach's Pocket Guide



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Welcome to Victory Beyond the Cup!

We are so excited you will be joining us as a coach. We want you to be well prepared as the kids arrive for your churches clinic, so we have supplied you this resource to guide you as you coach.

This manual includes a devotional and instructions for the two Team Times, the sessions you will talk with the campers on your team about the gospel. Using this guide will help you be the most effective at connecting with campers so that they may be reached with the good news of Jesus Christ!

There are a number of things you can do to be the most successful:

- **Do the devotion** that is for you. This gives you the opportunity to know how the story impacts you personally, allowing you to communicate God's truth from your heart.
- **Select and practice the personal story** you will be sharing before you arrive at the clinic. Make sure to think about how you can communicate your story in an age appropriate way.
- **Know the gospel** and how to communicate it clearly. If you have not had a chance to practice or be trained, talk with church staff about how to do this well with kids.
- **Have fun!** As a coach, you are making an important connection between the kids on your team and the church. This is a chance for you to build a relationship with the kids who attend. Make sure to have fun with campers in your sport as you share and show them the love of Christ!

Preparation Checklist

Below is a checklist to help you be the most prepared for a day as a coach:

- Pray for the participants in your team by name. Pray for your role as a coach and to be an example. Pray that God will prepare hearts for the gospel. Pray for safety and fun.
- Read the Bible verses for the clinic day. Do the devotional and familiarize yourself with the Team Time to make sure you are ready well in advance of clinic time.
- If you need to, review the gospel so you are ready to share. If your church is using a tool to share the message, please make sure you know this prior to camp. If you need to practice each day so you are ready for Thursday's gospel sharing time, please do so.
- Arrive ready and on time to the clinic. Meet with other leaders or help set up as needed.
- Get excited! The coach's energy level directly influences how much fun the kids have.

Victory Beyond the Cup

Devotional

(This is for the coach to use in preparation for the clinic.)

Read Acts 2:14-41

This short testimony is given by the same Peter who denied knowing Christ three times. It's a great look at what Peter had come to realize; he wanted to know Jesus and tell others about Jesus.

As He did with Peter, God has reached into each of our lives. He has shown Himself to be worthy of glory. His redemptive work on the cross is something we get a chance to see in Scripture when we read the testimony of Peter, a person who had been redeemed.

At the end of the reading, it says, "...and with many other words he [Peter] bore witness and continued to exhort them." During your clinic today, you will have a chance to bear witness to who God is in your life! You weren't there to eat fish with Jesus or see the empty tomb, but He has reached into your life and done amazing things. You are a person who has been redeemed.

After Peter gave his sermon, the Bible says, "so those who received his word were baptized." Not everybody received what Peter spoke of. However, Peter's job was not to convert people; he was faithful in being a witness for Christ.

During the clinic, you may or may not have team members who receive the words of your testimony or the gospel. Still, God has called you (like Peter) to be faithful in proclaiming what He has done. Go therefore and be a faithful servant in leading your team closer to Christ!

Context:

- How does reading the testimony of Peter, an eyewitness, help you understand what Jesus did for us on the cross?
- As a witness to Jesus' work in your life, how do you normally share that with others?
- How can you help others know and follow Jesus better?

Meditate on 1 Peter 3:15

This verse shows exactly what Peter was able to do in his sermon. He knew the source of his hope and was ready to defend it. When God made the time and place evident—by moving in the lives of the believers and the people around them—Peter was ready. This wasn't his only opportunity to do so; God gave him multiple opportunities to be a witness for Him. This clinic is an opportunity God is giving you to be a witness. How can you be ready to "give an answer for the hope that is in you" at this clinic, and be faithful in other opportunities as God brings them to you?

Contemplation:

As you pray over team time and the children in your group, thank God for inviting each of us to be on His team and giving us victory over our sins. Pray that the children will begin to understand the love God has for them and discover the purpose He has for each of their lives.

Team Time #1

(This is for during the clinic to use during the Team Times)

Personal Story:

- **Story Option #1:** Tell a personal story about a mistake you made or a time you sinned that the kids can relate to. Help them understand the difference between a mistake and choosing to sin.
- **Story Option #2:** Tell the kids about a time when you realized God created you with talents and share how you can use those talents.

Discussion Questions: *(Feel free to use questions from any age range regardless of your group.)*

4-5 years

- Can you name 5 amazing things that God made?
- What is a sin? *(The things we think, say, or do that go against God and His ways.)*

6-8 years

- Why did God create humans to be on His team?
- What is the difference between a mistake and a sin?

9-12 years

- How does knowing God created us to be in a relationship with Him impact our lives?
- How can we know more about God and His ways so we can trust Him more?

Team Time #2

Personal Story:

- **Story Option #1:** Share a brief testimony about how you came to trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
- **Story Option #2:** Share about how you live differently because of your trust in Jesus?

Discussion Questions: *(Feel free to use questions from any age range regardless of your group.)*

4-5 years

- What does it mean to forgive someone

6-8 years

- How much did Jesus sin while here on earth? Why is this important?

9-12 years

- What does it look like to trust God in our lives?

For Everyone

- How does it make you feel to know that God has forgiven us of our sins?
- Do you have any more questions about Jesus and what He did for us?
- Have you trusted Jesus to fix your relationship with God, now and forever?

Gospel Overview

You can use a visual tool like five colors on the gospel wristband or the four symbols from The Four to share the gospel with campers. Use your preferred Bible version when reading the verses to campers.

Method #1: Gospel Wristband

If you choose to use the gospel wristband, here's how it works:

Yellow Color – God

Message: The Bible tells us that God is eternal, infinite, good, loving, holy, and just (among many other attributes), and that God is the creator and sovereign ruler of the universe. He created men and women in His image to enjoy Him and represent Him on earth. Our purpose is to be in a trusting relationship with Him forever. Even though we have rebelled against Him, God continually pursues a relationship with His people.

Verse: Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Dark Color – Sin

Message: God is holy and does not allow sin in His presence. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that does not please God, and the Bible tells us everyone has sinned. The relationship God created us for is broken, and the punishment for our sin is dying and being separated from God in hell (Rom. 6:23). There is nothing you or I can do on our own to get rid of our sin.

Verse: Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Red Color – Jesus

Message: Jesus Christ—God the Son—came to earth as a man, lived a perfect life, died on the cross to pay the punishment for our sins, and rose again so that we can live with Him forever! Through Jesus, God forgives our sins and repairs our relationship with Him. Only Jesus can take away our punishment because He is God's perfect Son who never sinned. He then defeated death when He rose from the dead and offers us the gift of eternal life!

Verse: I Corinthians 15:3b "...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."

Light Color – Faith

Message: You must respond to God by personally believing that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again. Believing in Jesus means you agree you have sinned against a perfect God and that His way is the only right way. When you put your faith in Jesus as the one who saves you from your sin and rose again from the dead, God forgives you and provides a way to live forever with Him.

Verse: Romans 10:9 "if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Encourage a camper who expresses new or renewed faith to pray! Their new relationship with God starts now, so help them explore the next steps. They can pray something like this, but encourage them to use their own words to express what is on their heart.

"God, I know I was created to be in a relationship with you, but sin broke that. Thank you for sending Jesus to pay for my sins by dying on the cross and rising again to defeat death. I want to put my faith in you and have that new life you offer. Amen."

Green Color – New Life

Message: When you believe in Jesus, God gives you a new life so you can live for Him, both now and forever in heaven. Jesus promised that He will return for us one day, but we don't have to wait until we get to heaven to live for God. He is with us right now and He wants us to know and enjoy Him so that we can better live for Him. We can grow in that relationship by reading and following God's Word, praying for wisdom and guidance, and attending a church where we can serve and encourage others!

Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Gospel Sharing Tips

Do

- **Do** utilize every opportunity to engage your campers in personal gospel-focused conversations (ask questions).
- **Do** use scripture references during conversation to explain the gospel; ask if they know any verses too (e.g., "The Bible tells us that 'all have sinned'").
- **Do** make sure campers understand each component of the gospel, especially that we are sinners and Jesus' resurrection is the only way our sins are forgiven to have a new life with Him.

Don't

- **Don't** use a lot of symbolism or Christian terminology; children interpret words literally at this age.
- **Don't** pressure campers to make a decision. We "plant the seeds"; the Holy Spirit does the convincing.
- **Don't** get sidetracked; selflessly remember your role in sharing with the camper.

Method #2: The Four

The Heart

Message: God made you and loves you! His love is boundless and unconditional. God is real, and He wants you to personally experience His love and discover His purpose of your life through a relationship with Him.

Verses: Genesis 1:27, John 3:16

The Division

Message: You cannot experience God's love when you ignore Him. People search everywhere for meaning and fulfillment - but not with God. They don't trust God and ignore His ways. The Bible calls this sin. Everyone has sinned.

Sin damages your relationship with other people and with God. It keeps us from living the fulfilling life God intends for us. The result: you are eternally separated from God and the life He planned for you.

Verses: Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:2

The Cross

Message: Sin does not stop God from loving you. Because of God's great love, He became a human being in Jesus Christ and gave his life for you. At the cross, Jesus took your place and paid the penalty of death that you deserve for your sins.

Jesus died but he rose to life again. Jesus offers you peace with God and a personal relationship with Him. Through faith in Jesus, you can experience God's love daily, discover your purpose, and have eternal life after death.

Verses: 1 Peter 3:18, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Romans 5:8

The Question Mark

Message: You can place your trust in Jesus by faith through prayer. Prayer is talking with God. God knows your heart and is not concerned with your words as he is with the attitude of your heart.

Testimony Sharing Tips

As a leader at your clinic, your task is to engage with your team and point them toward God by setting a good example, loving them, and encouraging them to learn more about who God is. One of the ways you can do this is by sharing a portion of your testimony about what God has done in your life! This is set up to be done in Team Time #2. Sharing something personal about you is a great way to connect with your group, and it shows them the genuineness of your faith and your excitement about God's faithfulness to you. It can be intimidating to share personal things, but take confidence in the fact that you are sharing *God's* story, not just your own. You will likely only have a few minutes to do this, so plan ahead and make it brief. Use the tips below to help you prepare.

- Pray for His guidance
- Be transparent and honest; trust that God knows what your audience needs to hear.
- Adapt to your audience and make it age-appropriate
- Tell them about yourself—make a connection (your interests)
- Focus on how God changed you through the gospel of Jesus
- Ask yourself:
 - Who were you before Christ?
 - How did you surrender your life to Christ?
 - How has Jesus changed your life?

Behavior Management

So, you're leading your team's sports drill, game time, or Team Time, and the attention of your campers is everywhere else—not focused on what you want them to focus on. Frustrating? What's the remedy? Have a plan! Kids often make their own plans when they don't have direction. Instead, P.L.A.N.

P - Plan Ahead

If you don't have a plan for your kids, they'll have one for you. Always over-plan. It's better to run out of time than to run short on a lesson. Just 'winging it' is not a sure decision every time. Give these kids your best by planning your best.

L - Listen to Your Audience

Many times, our goals may not reflect the needs of our kids. Use the time allotted as a guide for you, but listen to what your team may need. Sometimes, the conversation may go a different direction than you planned. Lean into that and help your team navigate questions. Ask God for help. A simple redirect could help immensely.

A - Adjust Your Expectations and Delivery

Think about the words you're using. Use words, analogies, and examples that your team's age range can understand. Do not assume the entire team knows the definition of a word simply because you use it. Explain well. Allow for questions.

N - Note What Works

What got their attention the first time? Take a mental note of that, but do not overuse attention-getters, as they may become old if used too frequently. Share what worked with the other coaches in your sport or camp, or ask your director or other coaches for advice.

Safety Reminders

- Know the area. Look for any tripping hazards on your field/court/area and remove or mark them. If you're near a road, make sure there is a protocol for when a ball goes into the road.
- Stay hydrated! Always look for opportunities to get kids to drink. If it's hot, you may need to stop a game to get some water. Remember, thirst is the first sign of dehydration.
- Be aware. Know the kids on your team and notify leadership if there is something or someone disruptive or suspicious near camp.
- Don't be out of sight of others while alone with a child.
- First aid. Know where a child goes if there is any injury or illness.
- **Follow all of your church's child protection policies.** List some below:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

