

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 campers arrive, so we have supplied you this resource to guide you as you coach.

Each camp day includes a devotional and instructions for Team Times, the sessions you will have to talk with the campers on your team about the theme for the day and share a personal story. 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 devotions** supplied for each day. 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 camp. 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 campers.
- **Have fun!** As a coach, you are making an important connection between campers and the church. This is a chance for you to build a relationship with the campers who attend. Make sure to have fun with campers in your sport as you share and show them the love of Christ!

# Daily Preparation Checklist

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

- Pray for the campers 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.
- Memorize the memory verse below. This is central to the entire camp week and campers will be asked to memorize this as well.
- Read the Bible verses for the camp day. Do the devotional and familiarize yourself with the Team Time to make sure you are ready well in advance of camp time.
- If you need to, review the gospel so that 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 that you are ready for Thursday's gospel sharing time, please do so.
- Arrive ready and on time to camp. Meet with other leaders or help set up as needed.
- Get excited! The coach's energy level directly influences how much fun the campers have.

## Memory Verse

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a

*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.*

## Day 1 - Start with a Purpose

### Devotional

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

*Read Luke 5:1-11*

When we hear the phrase, “I did that on purpose,” it is often said when someone has mistakenly done something ridiculous, when in reality, the action was probably not done intentionally. We say this because we don’t want people to think we are directionless or lacking purpose in how we live our lives. We don’t like making mistakes.

When Jesus called the fisherman to follow Him, it wasn’t because He needed friends or wanted company during His ministry. He had a distinct purpose for their lives that was bigger than catching fish. Amazingly, the disciples dropped everything and followed Him. They knew Jesus was someone they wanted to know more deeply.

We can do the same thing! Our purpose is the same as the disciples: knowing and following Jesus. We may not have the luxury of seeing Jesus in person, but we can get to know Him by reading the Bible and listening to Him in prayer. God wants us to find victory in our lives by being on His team, and that is what you are sharing with the kids this week! Use your time at camp as an opportunity to grow closer to Jesus and help your campers do the same. Remember: victory comes when we start with a purpose!

## **Context:**

- What does God's word teach us about gaining the victory when we team up with Him?
- Are you living a life that glorifies God through the purpose He has given you?
- How can you help others know and follow Jesus better?

## **Meditate on:**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a:** Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a is the memory verse for this week at camp. Strive to read it every day and memorize it along with your campers. How will you use it as an encouragement to team up with each other and with God this week at camp?

## **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. Pray that the kids you interact with at sports camp and church would see an example in you that reflects Jesus' love and points them back to Him.



## Day 1 - Start with a Purpose

### Team Time #1

Theme: Victory comes when we start with a purpose.

#### Personal Story:

- **Story Option #1:** Tell a story about when you were part of a team and what your purpose was on the team. Why was your purpose important?
- **Story Option #2:** Share about a time you were on a team that required different strengths and skills. How did you work together to win the victory?

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

#### 4-5 years

- What makes a team great?
- Jesus' purpose on earth was to tell people about God's love. What makes you excited about being loved by God?

#### 6-8 years

- What makes a team great? Have you ever been a part of a great team?
- What was Jesus' purpose? What is our purpose as a part of God's team?

#### 9-12 years

- Why is it important for every great team to start with a purpose?
- God invites us to be on His team because of what Jesus did. What is our purpose on His team?

## Team Time #2

### Gospel Sharing:

If you are using the gospel wristband, today correlates with the yellow color on the bracelet for God. Today's Bible story taught us that God—the good, faithful, just, and loving creator—created the whole world and everything in it. He created our world to glorify Him and for each person to be in a trusting relationship with Him. That is our purpose and that is how we have victory in Jesus!

We also learned about the miracle Jesus performed when He told His team of disciples to follow Him and become “fishers of men.” Their purpose was to help people know how to be a part of God's team—that's a more important victory than catching a bunch of fish! Our relationship with God is also more important than anything else in life, and this week, we will learn how following Jesus as our ultimate coach will help us accomplish the purpose we were created for and win the victory of eternal life with Him.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus called the disciples for a purpose. What purpose did God create you for?
2. What were the disciples tasked to fish for? What does it mean to “fish for men”?
3. Part of Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to tell people about the kingdom of God and show them how they could join His team. What does it mean to join God's team and how does that bring us ultimate victory?

## Day 2 - Follow the Plan

### Devotional

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

*Read Matthew 10:1-22*

Following instructions is something we are taught to do from a young age. Recipes, construction projects, assignments—to complete successfully, these all require a carefully followed plan. As with any good set of instructions, the creator wrote them with intentionality and purpose to help us succeed. In sports, following the coach's plan will help teams win the victory! However, when following a plan might cause you discomfort, harm, or unknown challenges, it is difficult to trust the creator of that plan, especially when the outcome is uncertain.

When Jesus gave instructions to His disciples to go out and preach the kingdom of God, He made it very clear that they would encounter trials and experience discomfort (vv. 16-18). But He also promised that they would be instilled with power and have the help of the Spirit of God (vv. 19-20). So, the disciples were faced with a tough decision: trust that Jesus had a good plan and follow it, or give in to their qualms and disobey Him.

As we see this story play out, we also introduce the reality of sin, which is the opposite of following God's plan and causes an eternal separation between us and God. However, as Romans 5:8 tells us, "God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Because of His love, God has created the best plan for our lives, and we should strive to follow it daily! As you interact with your kids this week at camp, do your best to encourage them to trust in and follow the plan of their ultimate coach, Jesus.

## **Context:**

- Why is it important for a sports team to trust their coach?
- What is the hardest part about following a plan?
- Do you struggle with following God's plan? How can a relationship with Jesus help you work through this struggle and gain victory over your sins?

## **Meditate on:**

**Matthew 10:19-20:** Jesus promised that the disciples didn't need to be anxious about what they should say if they relied on the Spirit of God to speak through them. We can also rely on God's plan even when we don't know the outcome because we know He has already gained the ultimate victory for us. Is there anything you need to entrust to Him?

## **Contemplation:**

Spend intentional time in prayer and begin to pray for your team by name. Praise God for His good plan for our lives and how Jesus' sacrifice made it possible for us to team up with God. Pray that your kids would learn to trust and follow God's plan for them as well as recognize their need for a Savior.

## Day 2 - Follow the Plan

### Team Time #1

Theme: Victory comes when we follow the plan.

#### Personal Story:

- **Story Option #1:** Tell about when you did or did not follow instructions for a plan someone gave you. How did it go?
- **Story Option #2:** Share about a time when God's word—the best plan for your life—guided and encouraged you through a difficult situation.

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

#### 4-5 years

- What happens when we follow instructions? What about when we don't?
- When things are hard or scary, what are some ways we can remember that God is with us?

#### 6-8 years

- Great teams follow their coach's plans to gain victory. What happens when they don't follow the instructions?
- Why is it important to trust that God's plan is the best way to live?

#### 9-12 years

- Why is following a plan and instructions an important characteristic of great teams?
- What is the most difficult part of trusting and following God's plan?

## Team Time #2

### Gospel Sharing:

If you are using the gospel wristband, today correlates with the darkest color on the bracelet for sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God. Everyone sins and fails to perfectly follow God's plan, and the Bible says "the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 3:23a). This means that the penalty for our sin is death—eternal separation from God—and our relationship with God is broken. We cannot do anything to repair it ourselves; we need a savior to fix our relationship with God—that savior is Jesus!

Jesus followed God's plan to save the world and in today's lesson, He asked His disciples to follow the plan He had for them. They could have chosen to disobey and sin against God, but they chose instead to follow Jesus' instructions! With the help of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were able to share the good news with many people during that time. Their story is an encouragement to us to follow God every day of our lives, knowing that when we fail, God is always "faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). In Him we have victory over sin and death!

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is sin? How does it separate us from God?
2. When we are on Jesus' team, what can help us follow His plan like the disciples did, even when it brings uncomfortable, new, or dangerous situations?
3. Jesus set the ultimate example of following the plan by making a way for our sins to be forgiven in God's sight. What difference does it make to know God loves you despite your sins and wants to have a relationship with you?

## Day 3 - Face Fears

### Devotional

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

*Read Mark 4:1-9; 35-41*

It might seem a bit strange to talk about fear when defining a great team, but fear is a very real part of life for teams and individuals. For Jesus' disciples, this challenge came by way of a storm on the Sea of Galilee. They were still learning what it meant to trust God fully, and this event tested their faith. Their fear of the wind and waves threatened to overwhelm them when they cried out to Jesus to save them (v. 38).

How applicable is this? In our lives, we face fears all the time—fears of inadequacy, failure, loss, or pain—and in these times, we cry out for something or someone to save us. How often do we cry out to Jesus versus our family members, social media, or worldly comforts? It is not a sin to have fear, but a great team is marked by the way they handle fear when it arises. They must have courage and remember who is always with them and will help them push through to victory (Matthew 28:20b).

Everyone is going to fail to follow Jesus perfectly, but thankfully, Jesus is more powerful than our failures and offers us hope, comfort, and courage in the face of fear (John 16:33). In today's lesson, we don't see Jesus abandoning the disciples after fear caused their faith to fail. Instead, they continued as a team on their journey and they ended up being amazing witnesses for Jesus; what a victory! This week, look for ways you can encourage your campers to have courage and faith when fears arise both at camp and in life.

## Context:

- Is there anything you are scared to try because of potential failure? Where can you look in scripture to gain courage in this area?
- Why is it important for teams to face their fears in order to gain victory?
- How does Jesus' power over the storm remind us of His ultimate and victorious act of salvation?

## Meditate on:

**John 16:33:** How does this verse encourage you during moments of fear?

## Contemplation:

Take some time to pray for camp and your team. Confess any fears in your life that might be preventing you from moving forward in the purpose God has for you. Then, pray for the hearts of your team to be receptive to the gospel and ask God to give you the boldness to enter into spiritual conversations with them. You have a great opportunity to set an example of trusting in the Lord as you encourage your team this week!

## Memory Verse

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a

*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.*



### Team Time #1

Theme: Victory comes when we face our fears.

#### Personal Story:

- **Story Option #1:** Tell a story about a frightening time in your life and how you responded to that fear. Did you face it? Why or why not?
- **Story Option #2:** Give an example of someone you admire who faced his/her fears in a difficult situation.

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

#### 4-5 years

- God can give us the courage we need when we are in scary situations. When was a time you were scared?
- Trusting God can be hard, especially when we are scared. What does God do to help us?

#### 6-8 years

- Why is it better to be on a team when facing fears?
- What are some ways God promises to help us have victory when we are afraid?

#### 9-12 years

- Some people shy away or lose hope during frightening situations. Why is our response to fear important for overcoming it?
- Can you think of any Bible verses that encourage us to trust God in the midst of fear?

## Team Time #2

### Gospel Sharing:

If you are using the gospel wristband, today correlates with the red color on the bracelet for Jesus' sacrifice. Yesterday, we learned that we need a savior to fix our broken relationship with God. It was God who had a plan to send His Son, Jesus, to willingly lay down His life to pay the penalty for our sins. Then, Jesus earned the biggest victory when He rose again to defeat sin and death once and for all!

In today's lesson, we saw how that same Jesus also calmed a raging storm, reassuring His disciples that trusting in Him was the best way to gain victory over their fears. When we are afraid, we can trust that God is always there for us and has the power to forgive our sins when we believe in Him.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How did the disciples respond during the storm? What about after Jesus calmed the storm?
2. What does it mean to trust someone? What can we learn from this lesson to get better at trusting in God for the victory during moments of fear?
3. What victory did Jesus gain to mend our relationship with God? What difference should that make in your life?

## Day 4 - Defeat Doubts

### Devotional

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

*Read Luke 22*

There are two ways to define doubt: a feeling of uncertainty and a lack of conviction. In today's story, Simon Peter experienced both when Jesus was arrested and crucified; can you relate to Peter at all? In the end, however, we see a much different scene. Peter ran to the tomb, and his certainty about his Rabbi came back. Jesus had risen from the dead, victoriously defeating all doubts that He was the Savior of the world (Luke 24:1-12).

It's the same way with us! To completely defeat our doubts about who we are, what our purpose is, and what God says is true and right, we need to look to Jesus who is "the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). We need to see the importance of having faith rather than doubt. Faith in Jesus is trusting that His plan is best, acknowledging our need for His salvation, and believing that He had victory over death to give us the gift of forgiveness, eternal life, and victory with Him. These truths are what will help us defeat doubts in our lives, and this is what the kids in your group need to hear this week!

Just as Peter ultimately realized what it meant to follow Jesus unreservedly, you can show your campers how to follow Jesus through faith and love. This might be the first time some of them have heard about Jesus; for others, it might be the one-hundredth time. Regardless, make every effort to encourage your group with the joy, hope, and victory that comes from His gospel.

## **Context:**

- Think of a team or individual who has defeated doubts to gain victory in a mission/task. What do you admire about them?
- Do you ever doubt God's goodness, love, or plan for your life? How does being on His team help defeat those doubts?
- How can you show your campers the great victory that comes from putting their faith in Jesus for salvation?

## **Meditate on:**

**Proverbs 3:5-6:** How will the encouragement in the books of Luke and Proverbs help you defeat doubts as you follow Christ?

## **Contemplation:**

As you pray over your team time for today, praise God that He is strong enough to handle our doubts and defeat them. Pray for the ability to set a good example for your campers of what it looks like to have faith in Jesus. Then, pray for their hearts to be prepared to receive the full gospel message and ready to accept the invitation to join God's team today.

## Day 4 - Defeat Doubts

### Team Time #1

Theme: Victory comes when we defeat our doubts.

#### Personal Story:

- **Story Option #1:** Share a short portion of your testimony, emphasizing how you came to know and believe in Jesus. Talk about (child-appropriate) doubts or obstacles you had along the way.
- **Story Option #2:** Talk about a time you had doubts about a person that were later proved wrong. How did you overcome your doubts to trust that person?

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

#### 4-5 years

- Doubt means not being sure of something or someone. Is there something you aren't sure about?
- When we are on God's team, we know He has the best answer for us when we have doubts. How can we always remember this?

#### 6-8 years

- What is doubt? What do you have doubts about?
- Being on God's team means we can have victory regardless of our circumstances. How does this impact the doubts you have in your life?

#### 9-12 years

- What is doubt? What do you have doubts about?
- How can we defeat our doubts about Jesus and trust in Him to have victory?

## Team Time #2

### Gospel Sharing:

If you use the gospel wristband, today correlates with the light color on the bracelet for a heart made clean through faith in Jesus. God loves us and created us to be in a relationship with Him—to be on His team and to have the victory of eternal life. The disciples went through a rough time when Jesus was arrested and crucified; their fears and doubts began to destroy their confidence and hope in who Jesus said He was.

However, those doubts were defeated when Jesus rose from the dead, bringing victory over sin and death and giving them (and us) the opportunity to have a restored relationship with God. When we put our faith in Jesus as the only one who saves us, our sins are forgiven and we are made clean in God's sight. That's what it means to be on God's team!

### Discussion Questions:

1. What made Peter have doubts about Jesus? How did Jesus defeat those doubts, and what does this mean for us?
2. What is faith, and how does it relate to having victory over our doubts?
3. How can we trust in Jesus as our Savior and join God's team? Have you made that decision?

## Day 5 - Create Change

### Devotional

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

*Read John 21*

Every great team should be constantly improving in order to succeed; improvement can only happen when change is created. It's hard and sometimes painful to grow and change, but with dedication and discipline, it will ultimately help you gain victory. Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples, had a great purpose. But as we saw yesterday, he also had some growing to do as he followed Jesus.

In John 21, Peter had a heavy heart because he knew he had sinned by denying Jesus three times. The conversation between Peter and Jesus in verses 15-19 was a critical point in Peter's faith. He experienced the forgiveness of God, he was changed, and he was reminded of and encouraged in his purpose to go out and "feed my [Jesus'] sheep."

The change started in Peter, but from then on we see that change expanding to the rest of the world. Shortly after this, Jesus commissioned His disciples (and us) to "go and make disciples of all nations" by spreading the good news (Matt. 28:19a). That mission has continued to this day! When we experience new life in Christ, we can move forward with the power of the Holy Spirit to do what God asks and gain victory by creating a change in the world around us. Today you have the opportunity to show your campers how you have been changed because of Jesus and help them see how He can change their lives too.

## Context:

- How is creating change a part of teaming up with God?
- Think about the day you gave your life to Christ. How have you changed since then?
- How can you serve Jesus in a way that displays the victory you have in Christ and changes the lives of people around you physically, emotionally, and spiritually?

## Meditate on:

**Matthew 28:18-20:** When considering your new life in Jesus, what difference does it make to know that He said, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (v. 20b)?

## Contemplation:

Spend intentional time in prayer. Thank God for giving us the opportunity to have changed hearts, victory through Jesus, and new lives. Ask Him to give you a heart to serve the people around you after this week of coaching. Then, pray for what your team will face as they leave camp this week. Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit will work in their hearts and give them strength to create change in the world around them.



## Day 5 - Create Change

### Team Time #1

Theme: Victory comes when we create change.

#### Personal Story:

- **Story Option #1:** Tell a story about a time when you or a team you were on needed to change something in order to grow or win the victory.
- **Story Option #2:** Share something you thought, said, or did before knowing Jesus. How has that changed since joining His team?

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

#### 4-5 years

- Change is important for us to learn and have victory. What is something you can change right now (e.g., our attitudes and words)?
- When we believe in Jesus, our hearts are changed! What can do to thank God for what He did? How can we share about Jesus with others?

#### 6-8 years

- Is creating change always easy? Why or why not?
- When we join God's team, our hearts are changed. How can this victory affect those around us?

#### 9-12 years

- Why is it important for great teams to create change?
- What victory did Jesus have that should make us want to create change for Him in the world around us? How can we do that?

## Team Time #2

### Gospel Sharing:

If you are using the gospel wristband, today correlates with the green color on the bracelet for new life. When we trust Jesus, we don't have to wait to start our relationship with God. Our victorious new lives begin now! Part of that is learning how to follow what God calls us to do, just like Peter and the disciples. We must spend time with God to keep strengthening our new life in Him. Things like reading the Bible, praying, and spending time with people who also believe in Him (like going to church) are great ways to create change in our lives. But we should also create change in the world around us.

After Jesus created a change in Peter's heart through forgiveness, He challenged all the disciples to go out into the world and preach the good news of the kingdom of God. By telling other people about the good news of the gospel, we can give them a chance to experience the victory and hope we have in Christ Jesus.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How did Jesus and the disciples demonstrate the theme of *creating change* in our Bible lesson today?
2. What are some things we can do to start following God when we join His team and have a victorious new life in Jesus?
3. With God's help, how can we help create change in the world around us?

# 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 sports camp, your task is to engage with your campers 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! 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?



# Assistant Coach Practical Tips

## Day One - Purpose

We are here with a purpose! What is that purpose? To share the gospel, show the love of Jesus with our campers, and coach them well in their sport. Let's live that out in some practical ways today.

- Take time to be purposeful and learn each camper's name. To help remember their names, associate something with each name, like a favorite animal, candy bar, or summer activity.
- Participate during drills and do them well! By being purposeful in your participation, you are demonstrating the importance of each drill, and the kids will follow your example.

The Bible speaks about doing all things purposefully because, ultimately, even small things glorify God. Read **1 Corinthians 10:31** to understand why we do things on purpose.

## Day Two - Follow the Plan

We have a plan this week to teach great skills in each sport, but the greater plan is to build relationships with our campers and tell each kid about Jesus, inviting them to know Jesus as their Savior. For today, let's work as a team to accomplish the week's plan.

- Utilize the transitions or bathroom breaks to engage with campers:
  - Ask your campers questions about themselves (e.g., family, summer, favorite things).
  - Talk about following a plan and what it means for God to have a plan for us. Make sure to listen

to the details campers share and take some time to pray for each camper.

- Your coach has a plan for the skills sessions today. Before camp, ask your coach about the plan and do what you can to make it happen!

God's plan gives us hope and victory. Whatever happens in life, He knows the result. Let's trust God's plan for this week and serve because of that hope. Look at **Jeremiah 29:11** to remember God's promise of hope through His ultimate plan.

## Day Three - Face Fears

This week, we are asking kids to try new things, which can be scary because of the tendency to fear failure. Maybe we do that too. But today, let's not be afraid. Let's be bold because of Jesus' victory on the cross!

- Sometimes vulnerability is scary. To become more comfortable trusting God with your fears, practice talking about your relationship with Jesus during small group time.
  - You could also talk to your camp director about teaching the object lesson or sports story at the end of the week. Remember, growth happens when you step outside of your comfort zone!
- Step up and lead a drill—check with your head coach first—or help a coach in need (i.e., pick up equipment, set up for a new drill, help campers with their skills).

God commands us not to be afraid 365 times in scripture. That is a reminder for every day of the year! God reminds us of this because He is so powerful and has done the work to overcome our fear. But God also is with us even when we are afraid, which we see when we read **Deuteronomy 31:6**.

## Day Four - Defeat Doubts

Defeating doubt is something we can't do alone. Often, when we are doubting our skills, it takes encouragement from someone else to be reminded that we can have victory! As a coach, your words hold weight, so it's important to remember the power of truth when speaking to your campers.

- Help a camper who is struggling with a drill by clarifying instructions and giving them examples.
- Remember that today is the day we share the whole gospel. It's easy to be impatient with your campers, so focus on your words and actions on being Christ-like (e.g., kind, patient, gracious, loving).
- Give each camper on your team specific encouragement for their growth during the week.
  - "Hey Sally, your throw-ins are great today. You've improved so much!"

We need to help each other defeat doubt through encouragement. Spend some time reflecting on **John 20:24-29**. Jesus not only disproved Thomas' doubts by his physical presence, but He also encouraged him with His words to have faith and believe. Let's encourage our campers to have faith in Jesus too!

## Day Five - Create Change

The team of the disciples helped create a change we benefit from today! There is so much to celebrate when Jesus creates change within us. So, as we finish camp this week, let's celebrate the joy of hearts being changed by Jesus!

- Give extra high fives and fist bumps to all campers.
- Dance a little extra during song time as a way of celebrating the week of camp.

- Talk with each camper on your team. Tell them what a great job they did throughout the week! Remind them how much they have changed since the first day!

When we invite Jesus to change our lives, we become victorious new creations! We are welcomed into the great team of the church and the kingdom of God. Read **2 Corinthians 5:17** to remember how amazing it is to become a new creation through our relationship with Jesus.

# 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 campers 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:

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# Team Roster

Coaches: List the names of the campers on your team and use this chart to track attendance and memory verse memorization. In the notes column, include any special information about the campers (e.g., allergies or health conditions).

Camper Name	Day					Verse		Notes
	1	2	3	4	5			
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								

# Schedule

Time	Event	Notes
	Coaches arrive	
	Campers arrive	
	Opening (Large Group #1)	
	Skills Session #1	
	Team Time #1	
	Skills Session #2	
	Half Time (Large Group #2)	
	Game Time	
	Bible Time (Large Group #3)	
	Team Time #2	
	Closing (Large Group #4)	
	Post-Camp Leaders' Debrief	

