



Coach's Pocket Guide

Sample



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Welcome to Sports Camp!

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

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Devotional

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

Read Esther 2:1-11

Think back to a time when you had a great coach. What characteristics did that person show to make you want to learn from him/her? On the flip side, every coach has someone they are teaching/guiding—what characteristics make a good student or player on a team? We are all underneath the ultimate coach, God, who has our best interest in mind and holds the plan for our lives. The question every Christian needs to ask themselves is this: am I allowing myself to be a willing learner, an obedient child, and an eager follower of God's will?

Neither Esther nor Mordecai began very courageous, and while each showed a measure of willingness to be coachable, they were not listening to the ultimate coach, God. Esther listened to Mordecai when he told her to hide her lineage, but that did not show godly courage. Mordecai demonstrated a worrisome spirit by visiting the palace every day, not listening to God's promise through Moses, "He [The Lord] will not leave you or forsake you." (Deut. 31:6b) When we listen to God and learn from His word, we gain knowledge, wisdom, and tools to help us through life.

Today we're talking with the campers about how we can become courageous in sports and in relationship with Christ by being coachable. Think of some ways you can encourage them to listen to the coaches in their lives, including this week at camp!

Context:

- What does God's word teach us about being courageous?
- Why is it important to be a willing learner in life?
- How can you help others practice being coachable?

Meditate on:

Deuteronomy 31:6: Deuteronomy 31:6 is the memory verse for this week at camp. Do your best to read it every day, apply its truths, and work towards memorizing it along with your campers.

Contemplation:

As you pray over this Team Time and the children in your group, thank God for the courage we find in Him. Pray that the children will begin to understand the love God has for them and the plans and instructions He's laid out that they should follow. 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.

Team Time #1

Theme: Courageous people are coachable.

Personal Story:

- **Story Option #1:** Share a story about a time when you did or did not listen to a coach or teacher and the results that came from that situation.
- **Story Option #2:** Tell about a time when you had a coachable kid and how much your team benefited from having that player.

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

4-5yrs

- Being courageous means doing something even when you're afraid. When have you done something even though you were afraid?
- God helps us be courageous. How can we learn from God?

6-8yrs

- What do you think it means to be coachable?
- Why is God the best coach we could listen to and learn from?

9-12yrs

- Why is it important to follow instructions? What happens when we don't?
- How does listening to God help us become courageous?

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 created the whole world and everything in it. He created our world to glorify Him and for each human to be in a trusting relationship with Him. That is our purpose! We also learned how the people of Israel—including Esther and Mordecai—were not very obedient to God, yet God still had a plan and purpose for His people. The Bible gives us many promises about how God remains faithful to His people even when they are not faithful to Him. The Bible also promises that when we trust in God, He helps us become courageous! This week, we will learn how to listen to God as our ultimate coach and follow Him even when we are afraid or facing challenges.

Discussion Questions:

1. God created Esther and Mordecai for a purpose, and we'll learn more about that the rest of this week. What purpose did God create you for?
2. We saw Esther and Mordecai being coachable, but they weren't doing it in the way God wanted. How can we make sure that we're listening to God and living the way He wants us to?
3. What are some things we're afraid of that cause us not to be courageous? How can we trust God to help us with those things?

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 - Your interests, make a connection
- 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?
 - What has changed in your life?

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	_____

