

Chapter 5: X factor Training

X factor Training

The X factor training is divided into four different areas that we think you will find very helpful in leading your Huddle ministry. These four areas are key words taken from our mission statement.

Introduction:

It takes work to create a good athlete or a good team. There needs to be the right combination of nutrition, strength training, endurance training, skill training, and psychological preparation in order to be prepared to battle the opponent. The right kind of things need to be poured into the athlete to prepare him/her for the day of competition.

Your Huddle ministry is the same way. You must pour the right kind of things into it. If you do, God will automatically bless it. That's right – automatically!

Check out Mark 4:26-29. This passage is very clear and is the basis of our entire approach to Huddle ministry. If you provide the soil of your school and pour into it the four Excellence Factors that you are about to be trained in, the seed (the Word of God) will sprout and bear fruit “all by itself”.

The Bible was written in languages other than English and the word that is translated into the phrase “all by itself” could also be translated “automatically.” The idea is that if you do the right things, pour the right kind of things into the soil of your Huddle ministry, God will automatically bless it because that is an environment in which His Kingdom will flourish. He wants His Kingdom expanded and is looking for the right conditions for that seed to sprout, bear fruit and bring in a harvest.

We call these areas Excellence Factors (X factors). These X factors are important for you to understand, so you can provide the best environment for God to work in your Huddle. We have focused these areas around our mission statement:

- ▶ Present
- ▶ Challenge
- ▶ Adventure
- ▶ Relationships

The following sessions will walk you through exactly what each of these X factors mean and how to apply them to your Huddle ministry.

This perspective is not an attempt to force God into doing something for us, but rather begin with His word to find categories and then look at what He blesses with the conclusion of such an exhaustive study.

The X factor lessons will walk you through exactly what each of these characteristics mean and how to apply them to your Huddle ministry.

Present – Sharing Jesus

Vision/Mission/Values of FCA

“To emphasize the importance of FCA’s Vision, Mission, and Values as effective tools to shape and guide Leaders and their school’s Huddle ministry.”

Read Acts. 19. 8-10. Those verses state that “all who lived in the province hear the word of the Lord.” What an incredible sense of accomplishment for Paul and what an incredible statement for the Kingdom of God to know that everyone in this area of Asia had heard the gospel. Nowhere else in the New Testament is there such an amazing statement.

FCA’s Vision is “...the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches.” The only way that we are to accomplish this is through joining together those who want “all in their province” to have an opportunity to hear the message of life in Christ.

- ▶ Fill in the blank with what the Lord has put in your heart to impact (what team, school community, etc.): “the _____ impacted for Jesus Christ through athletes and coaches.”

FCA’s Mission is “To present to athletes and coaches 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.”

1. “FCA acknowledges that the family and church are the primary place for Christian growth and discipleship“ is a good description for what phrase of the Mission Statement?
 - a. “to present”
 - b. “to athletes and coaches”
 - c. “and all whom they influence”
 - d. “the challenge of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - e. “the adventure of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - f. “serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church”

2. “FCA aids athletes and coaches in maintaining or restoring relationships and directing athletes and coaches toward the family and church“ is a good description for what phrase of the Mission Statement?
 - a. “to present”
 - b. “to athletes and coaches”
 - c. “and all whom they influence”
 - d. “the challenge of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - e. “the adventure of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - f. “serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church”

3. “FCA presents the acceptance of Christ as a continuing journey in which athletes and coaches grow in knowledge of and service to Christ“ is a good description for what phrase of the Mission Statement?
 - a. “to present”
 - b. “to athletes and coaches”
 - c. “and all whom they influence”
 - d. “the challenge of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - e. “the adventure of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - f. “serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church”

4. “FCA recognizes that athletes and coaches have a significant influence in our culture“ is a good description for what phrase of the Mission Statement?
 - a. “to present”
 - b. “to athletes and coaches”
 - c. “and all whom they influence”
 - d. “the challenge of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - e. “the adventure of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - f. “serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church”

5. “FCA strives to present the Gospel in which athletes and coaches are encouraged to count its cost and make thoughtful decisions for Christ“ is a good description for what phrase of the Mission Statement?
 - a. “to present”
 - b. “to athletes and coaches”
 - c. “and all whom they influence”
 - d. “the challenge of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - e. “the adventure of receiving Jesus Christ”
 - f. “serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church”

6. How will you now apply FCA’s Purpose in your Huddle Ministry?

Come/Go Strategies

“To help student athlete leaders understand the importance of planning a Huddle meeting and going to where others are.”

Jesus gave us a great picture of how we are able to share our faith:

Matthew 28. 18-20: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.”

Jesus tells us to “go.” The words of Jesus seem pretty clear that we are to “go.” And yet most of the methods we employ to get people involved in the Huddle and have them hear the gospel message, requires them to “come” to a meeting or “come” to an event. We think it is absolutely critical for the health of your Huddle to understand the difference between expecting people to come to an FCA event and going to where they are.

Jesus does want people to “come.” In Matthew 4.19 He says to the first disciples “Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” Jesus did expect the disciples to come to where He was.

But He did not expect all to “come”, He did not expect all to “go.” In a well balanced Huddle we believe that to be effective, you must have both “Go Disciplines” and “Come Strategies.”

“Go Disciplines” are those things that individuals in your Huddle do, that are habits. They are both individual and group disciplines. The remainder of this segment will focus on a group “go” discipline called “The PIT Crew.”

A study done by the LINK Institute, found that students who do three things are more likely, up to 800% more likely, than others to come to know Christ. These three things are not a magic formula. They are three things that God uses greatly if people just do them. They are rather simple:

- ▶ **Pray:** Make a list of 10 friends that you know who you would like to see follow Christ.
- ▶ **Invite:** The Huddle would regularly invite their friends who haven’t found faith in Christ to places where the message of Christ is presented.
- ▶ **Tell:** The Huddle and especially the leaders are always ready to share what faith in Christ means to them.

Another “Go” discipline is covered in the small group models of releasing the Huddle leaders to go and lead small groups among their teammates. This is covered at length in the small group section.

“Go” Disciplines

“To help Leaders gain a deeper understanding and an action plan for personal and Huddle ‘Go’ strategies.”

A “Go Discipline” that we think would be helpful for you to learn is a very simple strategy called “Three Story Evangelism.” Simply put, Three Story Evangelism is about your deepening your relationship with Jesus and listening to your friend’s story. When you discover where their story and His story connect, you bring it to their attention.

It is really six components:

1. Falling more in love with Jesus.
2. Allowing His life to transform you from the inside out.
3. Learning to listen to people by asking questions.
4. Becoming more authentic and real.
5. Allowing people to process all of the stories.
6. Connecting the gospel to someone’s needs and desires.

Three Story Evangelism is not a series of steps. It’s a way of understanding relationships so that your friends might respond to the story of Christ.

The first part in sharing your faith is for you to grow toward Christ. Unless you have a growing relationship with Christ, your attempts at sharing your faith could be seen as shallow or hypocritical. Those who have growing relationships with Christ will have both the desire and power to share their faith.

After that you need to understand that listening is a powerful tool. If you want to be listened to, you must first listen. One of the most effective ways of getting the opportunity to share your faith is by listening and asking the right questions.

Here are some great questions to ask your friends to get a conversation going about spiritual things.

1. Do you have any spiritual beliefs?
2. Do you ever feel close to God?
3. Have you ever thought about pursuing God deeper?
4. What’s the wisest thing somebody ever told you about God?
5. Have you ever seen any results from your prayer?
6. Have you ever wondered why you exist?
7. Have you ever wondered if there was a God?
8. Who helped you learn the most about God?
9. What do you think makes Christianity different?
10. Is there anything spiritual that you are absolutely convinced of?

- ▶ As a group discuss one of these questions.

- ▶ As a group, decide who you will make it a point to ask one of these questions over the next week.

As you listen, your friends will want to hear how you have handled life and you will have a chance to share your story. The next part of Three Story Evangelism is learning how to tell your story. The most important thing to understand is that you don't have to tell your story the first time your friends tell their story. It's best to tell your story when they ask you about it.

To best tell your story, you should be prepared to connect your story to part of their story. It is very important to be genuine and real. To recite a prepared version of your story may work sometimes, but at other times it may not seem like the best thing to do. When it doesn't seem right, simply share with them ways that you have dealt with the problems.

You don't always have to use the same scriptures or the same phrases, you just have to be honest with how you have come to understand how Christ met you in your life.

The final part of Three Story Evangelism is to connect your story and your friend's story to Christ's story. There are a couple of things to keep in mind. First, you don't have to do it all at once or the same way with all of your friends. Telling your friends about how Christ has impacted your life is as unique as the conversation you are having with that person. You don't have to have all the answers and use a lot of Bible verses. All you have to do is be real and tell your friends what Christ means to you in your life.

Over time you will probably see five main threads that you can weave in to connecting your stories:

1. Jesus showed up
2. Jesus died
3. Jesus rose
4. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit
5. Jesus is coming back

There are a few questions that you might use as a gentle tug to help a person along in their decision.

1. Can you see how this makes sense to me?
2. Does this make sense to you?
3. Is there anything that prevents you from trusting Jesus?
4. Tell me what you think of this story I am telling you?
5. Can you see how this story can make a difference in your life?

Now in your group, practice Three Story evangelism and have one person share their faith by asking another person one of the following:

1. Do you have any spiritual beliefs?
2. Do you ever feel close to God?
3. Have you ever thought about pursuing God deeper?
4. What's the wisest thing somebody ever told you about God?
5. Have you ever seen any results from your prayer?
6. Have you ever wondered why you exist?
7. Have you ever wondered if there was a God?
8. Who helped you learn the most about God?
9. What do you think makes Christianity different?
10. Is there anything spiritual that you are absolutely convinced of?

Then, ask them how they would they answer the same question.

Practice connecting their story with one of the following:

1. Jesus showed up
2. Jesus died
3. Jesus rose
4. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit
5. Jesus is coming back

And close with one of the following questions:

1. Can you see how this makes sense to me?
2. Does this make sense to you?
3. Is there anything that prevents you from trusting Jesus?
4. Tell me what you think of this story I am telling you?
5. Can you see how this story can make a difference in your life?

Solid Messages

“To ensure that Huddle messages fit within FCA’s Statement of Faith.”

Below are FCA’s statements of faith. These seven statements define what FCA believes. Please read out loud the seven statements.

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
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.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men (and women) regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the following space provided, write in your own words what each statement means”

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
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.

4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men (and women) regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
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6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

After studying the statement of faith, would you allow the following things to happen at your Huddle (Yes or No):

1. Someone wants to speak to your Huddle and believes that another book is as important as the Bible. Yes No
2. Someone wants to speak to you Huddle who thinks that Jesus was a great teacher, but not God. Yes No
3. Someone wants to speak to your Huddle, but doesn’t believe that Jesus really rose from the dead. Yes No
4. Someone wants to speak to your Huddle who believes that you can go to heaven by just doing good things. Yes No

Challenge – Seeking Jesus

Knowing Christ

“To ensure that leaders have an established and growing relationship with Christ.”

Discovering God's Plan For Your Life

In most athletic contests, a coach prepares a game plan ahead of time. God designed a plan for our lives before the world began. God is holy and perfect. He created us to love Him, glorify Him, and enjoy Him forever.

What is God's Standard?

The Bible, God's playbook, says that the standard for being on His team is to:

- ▶ **Be holy.** “Be holy, because I am holy.” – I Peter 1:16b
- ▶ **Be perfect.** “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” – Matthew 5:48

What is God's Plan?

God created us to:

- ▶ **Love Him.** “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’” – Matthew 22:37
- ▶ **Glorify (honor) Him.** “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” – Revelation 4:11
- ▶ **Enjoy Him forever.** Jesus said, “...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” – John 10:10b

Why is it we cannot live up to God's standard of holiness and perfection? Because...Man is sinful and separated from God.

What is sin?

Sin means missing the mark, falling short of God's standard. It is not only doing wrong and failing to do what God wants (lying, gossip, losing our temper, lustful thoughts, etc.), it is also an attitude of ignoring or rejecting God, which is a result of our sinful nature. “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” – Psalm 51:5

Who has sinned?

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” – Romans 3:23

What are the results of sin?

- ▶ **Separation from God.** “But your iniquities [sins] have separated you from your God...” – Isaiah 59:2a
- ▶ **Death.** “For the wages of sin is death...” – Romans 6:23
- ▶ **Judgment.** “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...” – Hebrews 9:27

This illustration shows that God is holy and we are sinful and separated from Him. Man continually tries to reach God through his own efforts (being good, religious activities, philosophy, etc.) but, while these can be good things, they all fall short of God's standard.

“...all our righteous acts [good works] are like filthy rags.” – Isaiah 64:6b

There is only one way to bridge this gap between God and man.

God provided the only way to be on His team by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as the holy and perfect substitute to die in our place.

Who is Jesus Christ?

- ▶ **He is God.** Jesus said, “I and the Father are one.” – John 10:30
- ▶ **He is Man.** “...the Word (Jesus) was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” – John 1:1,14a

What Has Jesus Done?

- ▶ **He died as our substitute.** “...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” – Romans 5:8
- ▶ **He rose from the dead.** “...Christ died for our sins...he was buried...he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and...he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred...” – 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
- ▶ **He is the only way to God.** “...I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6

This illustration shows that God has bridged the gap between Himself and man by sending Jesus Christ to die in our place as our substitute. Jesus defeated sin and death and rose from the grave. Yet, it isn't enough just to know these facts. To become a part of God's team, there must be...Man's Response.

Man's Response

Knowing a lot about a sport and “talking the game” doesn't make you a member of a team. The same is true in becoming a Christian. It takes more than just knowing about Jesus Christ; it requires a total commitment by faith in Him.

Faith Is Not:

- ▶ **Just knowing the facts.** “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.” – James 2:19
- ▶ **Just an emotional experience.** Raising your hand or repeating a prayer is not enough.

Faith Is:

- ▶ **Repenting.** Turning to God from sin. “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret...” – 2 Corinthians 7:10a
- ▶ **Receiving Jesus Christ.** Trusting in Christ alone for salvation. “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...” – John 1:12

On which side of the illustration do you see yourself? Where would you like to be?

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” – John 5:24

To make sure we are making the right call, let's look at the following...

- ▶ Realize God is holy and perfect; we are sinners and cannot save ourselves.
- ▶ Recognize who Jesus is and what He's done as our substitute.
- ▶ Repent by turning to God from sin.
- ▶ Receive Jesus Christ by faith as Savior and Lord.
- ▶ Respond to Jesus Christ in a life of obedience.

Jesus said, “...If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” – Luke 9:23

Does God's plan make sense to you? Are you willing to repent and receive Jesus Christ? If so, express to God your need for Him. If you're not sure what to say, consider the “Suggested Prayer of Commitment”:

(Remember that God is more concerned with your attitude than with the words you say.)

Suggested Prayer of Commitment:

“Lord Jesus, I need you. I realize I'm a sinner, and I can't save myself. I need your mercy. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead. I repent of my sins and put my faith in you as Savior and Lord. Take control of my life, and help me to follow you in obedience. In Jesus' name. Amen.”

Have you made a personal decision for faith in Christ?

If you were to die tonight are you certain that you would go to heaven? Why or why not?

Life with Christ

“To equip leaders with essential Spiritual Exercises that will produce a life of spiritual growth.”

Just as physical growth demands physical exercise, spiritual growth as a Christian demands spiritual exercise. Here are five daily exercises to build spiritual muscle:

1. Lifestyle of Obedience
2. Lifestyle of Bible Reading
3. Lifestyle of Prayer & Praise
4. Lifestyle of Fellowship
5. Lifestyle of Witnessing

Exercises:

Mark "T" (True) with the daily exercises that are important to your spiritual growth and mark "F" for the ones that are False.

- T F Daily Obedience
- T F Daily Weight Lifting
- T F Daily Bible Reading
- T F Daily Application of Deodorant
- T F Daily Prayer and Praise
- T F Daily Oil Changes for Car
- T F Daily Fellowship
- T F Daily Brushing your teeth
- T F Daily Witnessing

Habits:

For the next two weeks I will develop a habit by committing to...

Accountability

“To help leaders understand how they can help keep each other accountable in all areas of their lives.”

► Read: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

1. Why do we need other Christians to be active participants in our lives?
2. Do you see your Leadership Team as a chord that is not quickly broken?

► Read: Proverbs 27:17

1. What does it mean to “sharpen” another person?
2. Think about you and the others members of your leadership team. Would you say that you all are “sharpening” or “dulling” each other in regard to living godly lives? Explain.
3. Think about the friends you spend most of your time with. Do they sharpen you and help point you toward Christ, or do they dull your relationship with Christ? Explain.

Exercise: A Leadership Team that “Sharpens”

(This exercise is designed to equip your leadership team with the ability of holding each other accountable in different areas of the Christian life.)

1. Read the Leadership Team Accountability Contract (page 205) and print it out.
2. At your next Leadership Team Meeting, discuss the Leadership Team Accountability Contract.
3. If you feel you can sign the FCA Accountability Contract, then do so and present it to your leadership team and leave it with the Huddle sponsor.

1. Often, we confess our sins to God and will even admit to others that we are sinners, but then struggle in trying to change our behavior. Having an accountability partner is one way of making overcoming personal struggles a little easier. Accountability partners serve as a tangible reminder of your commitment to live right for God.
2. Pray that God would put an individual in your life to be your accountability partner. This person could be someone else on the leadership team, but could also be a mom, dad, or friend from church. An accountability partner is someone whom you trust, are willing to be open with, and someone you know is striving to be an imitator of Christ, too. This person should also be someone of the same sex.
3. Once God provides the right person, and they are excited about growing closer to Christ along side of you, agree to meet regularly (weekly, twice a month, etc.). Pick a time _____ place_____.
4. When you meet, open with prayer. Then, take turns answering the FCA Accountability Questions. Be open with each other, and specific when sharing your struggles with one another. Be honest. Agree that everything shared will be kept confidential. Pray for each other. Encourage each other to be more like Christ.

Adventure – Leading Others

Campus Plan

“To equip Leaders in identifying the different groups of Christian Commitment that exist within their school and how their Huddle ministry can most effectively reach each group to impact their campus with Christ.”

► Read Matthew 10.5-10.

The disciples received very specific instructions from the Lord as to what they should do in the ministry He had given them to accomplish. That is exactly what you as leaders of your Huddle need to do. You need to come together and ask the Lord to give you specific instructions as to what He wants you to do.

► Please stop right now and ask the Lord to give you an understanding of His heart for His ministry through FCA.

As you look at these five verses in Mat 10: 5-10, four principles come to the surface. Please click on a button to find out what they are:

1. **Target your audience.** Jesus did not tell the disciples to go to everyone, but specifically to the “lost sheep of Israel.” Likewise in FCA we are asking you to target the athletes and coaches in your school, recognizing their influence.
2. **The message.** Jesus said, “As you go, preach this message...” Again, likewise as you consider the target audiences of the FCA ministry in your school, your message to them needs to be specific.
3. **What you should do.** Jesus then gave the disciples specific instructions as to what they should do.
4. **Trust God!** Jesus did not say “take all you will need to accomplish this,” instead He told the disciples not to worry about their resources. The same is true for your Huddle. Pray, listen, plan, go, for “the worker is worth his keep.”

Determining Your Targets

List those who are on your leadership team.

How many are coming to your Huddle? _____

How many would you like to come to your Huddle this year? _____

How many athletes are on teams at your school? _____

How many coaches? _____

How many students are at your school? _____

Now go back through each of these target audiences and answer the following:

What are some of their needs?

Target Audience + Purpose = Event with a Purpose

We have taken the four key words from our Mission to help focus effective Huddle Ministry. If you take each one of those key words from the purpose statement and one of the target audience and put them together you will construct events with a purpose.

Remember we exist to “present to athletes and coaches, 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.”

Each of the key words can be defined as:

- ▶ **Present** is “reaching others with Christ”
What does this mean to you?
- ▶ **Challenge** is “developing faith fundamentals”
What does this mean to you?
- ▶ **Adventure** is “faith in action”
What does this mean to you?
- ▶ **Relationships** is “connecting with others”
What does this mean to you?

A Huddle ministry that is effective is one that has focused meetings and events. To do this, the leaders must design meetings and events that reach their target audiences with specific messages. Open and print the following chart and fill it in with meetings or events that would reach the target audience with the specific message. A few examples are given. If you need ideas turn to the Resource Section of the Huddle Playbook.

Now apply this idea, using the resources from the Huddle Equipment and the Huddle Playbook to pull from, to design Huddle meetings for Huddle members, outreach events for the athletic community at your school and outreach events for the student body at your school. You can use the Huddle Ministry Planner or you can use the printed Huddle Playbook.

Use the attached document here to develop a written plan for your Huddle for the next two months.

In Da Zone

“To give Leaders an understanding of spiritual gifts and how spiritual giftedness is directly related to leading an effective Huddle.”

Spiritual gifts are an incredible power given to us from God through the power of the Holy Spirit in us. They are also a source of controversy. We in FCA want to be very clear that denominational interpretation of the gifts is not intended and should be avoided. Yet, the gifts are real and need to be utilized in the Huddle ministry, otherwise we will miss the primary way that God has intended us to accomplish the things He has for us.

There are a few different listings of the gifts in the New Testament. Some scholars have said these different listings are there to represent different ways the gifts are expressed in the people of God. There seems to be a core set of gifts and that is why we will be focusing on the listing in Romans 12.3-8.

The word in the Bible that is translated “gift” comes from a word that has deeper meanings of “free gift” and even “joy.” With this understanding, you should read the word “gift” as a free gift that God has given you that you realize as joy. What God has poured into you to accomplish His work will come as an incredible sense of joy and motivation for you. As you read the passage coming up, think about what brings you joy in serving God.

Please match the word to the correct definition.

Prophecy Serving Teaching Encouraging Giving Leadership Mercy

- _____ A person with this gift is motivated to help others with something.
- _____ A person who has this gift will have the desire to say or do just the right thing to help a person grow closer to God.
- _____ A person with this gift will be able to explain God’s word so that people understand how to apply it to their lives.
- _____ A person with this gift will have the unique ability to sense a person’s situation and need.
- _____ A person with this gift has the natural ability to organize a group of people or a project and move them/it to a point of accomplishment.
- _____ A person with this gift will have a strong desire to provide for the needs of others.
- _____ A person with this gift has the ability to proclaim God’s word with a focus on exposing sin.

Unwrapping Your Gift

“A gifts test is provided below to help individuals understand their supernatural giftedness.”

As you learned in the previous segment, each of you has been gifted by God to accomplish His plans. Here is a test for you to take, to help you discover what that gift is. Take a moment to pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you what gift He has given you.

Spiritual Gifts Test

When taking the Spiritual Gifts Test, use the following 5-point scale.

4 = Strongly Agree **3** = Agree Somewhat **2** = Undecided **1** = Disagree Some **0** = Strongly Disagree

Prophet

- I like to tell my friends how God’s Word can effect their life.
4 3 2 1 0
- I like to proclaim the Word of God to comfort others.
4 3 2 1 0
- I enjoy relating and sharing God’s Word to the issues my friends are dealing with.
4 3 2 1 0
- It is important for me to speak God’s Word of warning and judgment to those around me.
4 3 2 1 0
- In huddle meetings it seems essential to share God’s word even if it irritates others.
4 3 2 1 0

Teacher

1. I'm excited in helping my friends discover important things from the Bible.
4 3 2 1 0
2. Leading the discussion at a huddle meetings is one of the most enjoyable things I do.
4 3 2 1 0
3. It seems like my friends learn when I teach them.
4 3 2 1 0
4. One of the joys of my life is training people to be more effective at living a life fully devoted to Christ.
4 3 2 1 0
5. It is easy to get stuff organized for huddle meetings.
4 3 2 1 0

Encouragement

1. It is enjoyable to motivate my friends to a deeper walk with Christ.
4 3 2 1 0
2. It is a joy to give encouragement to people who are discouraged.
4 3 2 1 0
3. I like to encourage huddle members who haven't been to a meeting in a while to become more active again.
4 3 2 1 0
4. People who are feeling discouraged often come to me for encouragement and comfort.
4 3 2 1 0
5. I would rather invite a delinquent huddle member to something rather than a regular attendee.
4 3 2 1 0

Serving

1. There is great joy in doing little things for the huddle ministry.
4 3 2 1 0
2. I enjoy doing routine jobs for the glory of God.
4 3 2 1 0
3. I receive great satisfaction in doing small or trivial tasks during a huddle meeting.
4 3 2 1 0
4. I find more satisfaction in doing a job than finding someone else to do it.
4 3 2 1 0
5. I like to do things without attracting much attention.
4 3 2 1 0

Leadership

1. There is great joy in leading people to accomplish the group's goals.
4 3 2 1 0
2. Other students seem to enjoy following me in doing an important task.
4 3 2 1 0
3. It is more effective to get others to help do a task rather than to do it myself.
4 3 2 1 0
4. It's fun to inspire others to greater involvement in the huddle ministry.
4 3 2 1 0
5. There is great satisfaction in having others follow me in performing a task.
4 3 2 1 0

Giving

1. There is a great satisfaction in giving or finding money for the work of the huddle ministry.

4 3 2 1 0

2. I find real joy in giving a generous portion of my money to the Lord.

4 3 2 1 0

3. I appreciate the opportunity to try give or find people to give things that the huddle needs.

4 3 2 1 0

4. It is a joy to see how much money I can give to the Lord.

4 3 2 1 0

5. I can give sacrificially because I know that God will meet my needs.

4 3 2 1 0

Mercy

1. I feel great compassion for the problems of others.

4 3 2 1 0

2. I enjoy listening to my friends talk about some of their needs or hurts.

4 3 2 1 0

3. I sense joy in comforting my friends in difficult situations.

4 3 2 1 0

4. I enjoy encouraging a person who is out of action because of injury or illness.

4 3 2 1 0

5. I would go out of my way to do something for a friend who has a special need.

4 3 2 1 0

Scoring Guide

Prophet _____ Teacher _____ Encouragement _____

Serving _____ Leadership _____ Giving _____

Mercy _____

Working as a Team

“To emphasize the large role that an individuals spiritual gift plays – as a member of the Huddle team.”

As a group or individual, complete the following activities:

Has anyone in your group ever broken a bone or sprained an ankle? What did it do to that part of the body? How did it feel when it healed?

► Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-23.

Why are the different parts of the body of Christ so important? How good would a hand be if there were no eye?

In the last session you had a chance to determine everyone’s spiritual gifts. Now, as a leadership team, discuss the results of each team member and in the space provided, enter the person with the gift that would best fit the situations described.

1. The Huddle meeting is over and it was a pretty intense one. It was about relationships with parents and some of the students were really dealing with some hurt that came out. The Huddle leaders knew this might happen and assigned a few of the leaders just to stick around to talk with those who might need some one to talk to. Who on your team would be best to do this?

2. Every Huddle meeting means there is a lot of chairs to stack, the sound system needs to be put away, etc. Who on your team would be best to do this?

3. The Huddle has been talking about doing an outreach for the entire school and someone needs to head up the meeting and organize the event. Who on your team would be best to do this?

4. The Huddle is going to start doing small groups for each athletic team, on the evening of their short practice. The Huddle needs a few key leaders who could do these small groups. Who on your team would be best to do this?

5. The Huddle has an outreach coming up for the whole school and someone has to either get the pizzas donated or somehow find the money to pay for them. Who on your team would be best to do this?

Now look at the plan your Huddle has over the next few months and discuss if you are using the right people in the right ways.

Below are the responsibilities of the key FCA Huddle Officers. If you have people in your Huddle who are assigned these positions, how have you seen them demonstrate their gifts?

If you haven't assigned these offices, who would be good at them based on the spiritual gifts inventories that were taken?

- Huddle Coach _____
- Captain _____
- Secretary _____
- Assistant Coach _____
- Co-Captain _____
- Recruiter _____

Hitting the Target

“To enable Leaders to plan and implement meetings which are relevant and inspiring to their Huddle.”

Communicating to Today's Youth Culture

A friend of yours is at a party and is offered a drug. Now discuss the following questions about this situation.

What goes on in their mind and what helps them make the decision to take the drug or not? How many of your friends would not take the drug simply because it is wrong? How many of your friends would take the drug because they want to fit in? How many of your friends would try the drug and decide later if they thought it was something they would like to do again?

How would you convince your friends not to try the drug if they...

...don't think it is wrong?

...are trying it because their friends are?

...want to experience it and decide if it is a good idea or not?

Now complete this sentence to compel your friends, “One time I read in the Bible that my body is a gift (I Cor. 6:19) and I really found that to be true because...”

Today, the key to understanding how you compel people to make decisions, is through stories of personal experience. That personal experience is compelling, as some youth look to determine what is truth for them. Their minds are not opposed to absolute truth; they are opposed to absolute truth being imposed upon them. These people have a strong desire to experience for themselves what truth is to them. They can discover the absolute truth in Christ, but they must discover this themselves.

Christ is the truth. In our Huddle meetings, an environment must be created where compelling stories can be told, and presented regularly, how others have discovered that truth.

Tools of Communication

FCA has put together a great number of multimedia resources for you to use in your Huddle Ministry, including a DVD that contains videos of professional and peer athletes describing their relationships with Christ. Also, be sure to check out the Huddle Media Locker on this CD-ROM for more multimedia content and to access workouts to be used with the DVD.

Relationships – Loving Others

Small Group Models

“To educate leaders on the 6 different communication models and the degrees of communication that these models facilitate, and to also provide insight on how to improve communication within their Huddle.”

Introduction

There are five different ways to use small groups in your Huddle meeting. Each of them are distinctly different and could apply to different size groups. We do want you to know that we believe the best Huddles are those Huddles that are student-led and not limited to the room where the Huddle meeting typically meets. As you study the following models of how small groups could be used during the workout of your Huddle meeting, please know that Model 3 and Model 4 will have tremendous results in your Huddle.

Small groups in Huddle Meetings are important. They are important because they provide the opportunity for communication. If your Huddle only meets in a large group then those who prefer to be quiet would probably never feel comfortable to share their thoughts and feelings. The following types of Huddle meetings provide different models to facilitate communication:

- ▶ **Speaker Format** – “The Speaker Format” is simply where a speaker delivers their thoughts and allows for no small group interaction. This is the least effective in helping huddle members develop relationships.
- ▶ **Interactive Format** – “The Interactive Format” is where a speaker delivers their thoughts and allows feedback. This feedback best helps develop relationships when done in small groups.
- ▶ **The Small Group Huddle Format** – “Small Group Huddle Format” is a Huddle that has small groups leaders who are in charge of small groups that meet within the follow of the Huddle meeting.
- ▶ **The Huddle Reaching Out Through Small Groups** – “The Huddle Reaching Out through Small Groups Format” is a huddle that uses the small group concept to send trained small group leaders outside of the big Huddle meeting to athletes, teams or coaches to get them involved in a small group discussion about spiritual things.

Diversity

“This session is designed to help you know how you can love everyone at your school.”

An athlete knows that when a season is over and the championships were either won or lost, it took the team to accomplish that result. It took people connected in relationships. In the FCA Huddle Ministry, relationships are critical. There are different ways to maximize relationships in Huddle meetings, outreaches, etc. to best meet the needs of those involved.

Now look at Matthew 22:37-40.

This is probably a familiar passage to you, but what does it mean to love someone like yourself?

How do you like to be loved?

How could you love others like this in your Huddle ministry?

Part of loving others like yourself is getting to know people who are different from you and deciding to work with them. Here is an exercise to help in that process. Check off the ones where you feel your leadership team represents your schools population:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Huddle Coach | <input type="checkbox"/> male/female | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> sport diversity |
| Student Leaders | <input type="checkbox"/> male/female | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> sport diversity |
| Total Leadership Team | <input type="checkbox"/> male/female | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> sport diversity |

Church – Not Just On Sunday

“Jesus came to establish the Church. We want you and your Huddle to know exactly where FCA fits into God's Kingdom.”

FCA recognizes that the family and the Church are the primary institutions for discipleship. In this section, we will examine how FCA and the local church can work together to build up the body of Christ. We hope that by completing the following exercises, your leadership team will gain a greater understanding of how your FCA can serve as an extending arm of your church.

► Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

1. Who is included in the “body” of Christ? What are some of the different “units” of the body of Christ?
2. How does your FCA and your church youth group serve as different units of the body?
3. How can your FCA be specialized so that it is different than a youth group? (see mission statement)

► Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

4. How can your FCA help the churches in your town?
5. Does your FCA run the risk of being seen by other Christians as being only for members of a single church or denomination? If so, what can you do so those students going to churches different than yours feel welcome and get involved?

As a leader in FCA it is important that you understand your place in the Body of Christ. FCA is not meant to simply be a youth group that meets at school. It is best to think of FCA as a missions organization where you as a student are a missionary, your school is the mission field, and sports is the common language you will be using to communicate the love of Jesus with your peers.

Complete the following statement:

“I am serving with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as a missionary of _____ church and my mission field is my school.

Contact your church and share with them that you are going to be serving as a missionary of _____ church this school year, through FCA, in _____ school. Ask them to make sure that you are added to any prayer lists that might be going around. If you are good in front of people, perhaps you can even inquire about briefly sharing with your church congregation about your leadership opportunity with FCA.

7 Ways that FCA and Local Churches Can Work Together

1. Invite youth ministers and pastors to come and speak.

This is a great way to involve the local church in your FCA. Be careful not to only invite certain churches and make sure that they only focus on Christ as Lord and not denominational issues. (See statement of faith).

2. Transportation.

Many churches have vans and buses and they may be willing to help your FCA travel to events, etc.

3. Provide Churches with New Believers!

Since FCA's primary purpose is “presenting” Jesus, it will be necessary for you as a leader to help those who want to grow in their faith to get plugged into a church. Here are some suggestions on how you can do this.

- 1) FCA Leaders, invite new believers to church with you.
- 2) Have cards available for FCA members to fill out if they are interested in talking with a youth minister. (Name, Address, Phone, Email, Attend Church?, “I accepted Christ in FCA today,” “I would like to talk with someone about being a Christian.”)
- 3) Always have students offer rides to various churches on Sunday to anyone needing them.
- 4) Make announcements about local church events.
- 5) Have a speaker to talk about the importance of being a member of a church.

4. Finances for FCA activities/camps.

Ask your local churches to sponsor sending leaders to camps, fund money to bring in FCA speakers and food for events. Many FCAs have found that churches will provide FCAs with Bibles that can then be handed out for free to students! Many churches will love to help you financially in your efforts to share Jesus with your school!

5. Prayer.

Keep your church informed about what God is doing in your FCA Huddle and on your Leadership Team. They can be a primary source of prayer!

6. FCA Night at a Local Church!

Once a month/semester, have an FCA night at a Local Church! Ask the church if your FCA can do a program on a Sunday morning or evening service. Have various members of FCA share testimonies, skits, songs, etc.

7. Events.

Many churches do retreats, lock-ins, Rallies, etc. FCA can partner with churches for such events rather than trying to do one on your own.

Which statement best describes your leadership team:

- Some of our FCA officers do not attend church regularly.
- All of our FCA officers are active members of a local church.
- None of our FCA officers are members of a local church.
- All of our Leaders attend the same church and our youth minister is the FCA sponsor.

Chapter 6: FCA Guidelines

FCA Huddle Constitution

Article I – Name

The name of the organization shall be the (name of the school) Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Article II – Mission

The mission of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is “to present to athletes and coaches, 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.”

Article III – Qualifications of Members

As the purpose states, FCA is targeted at reaching athletes and coaches. In order to best reach this group through the Huddle, participants of Huddles are to be current or former members of recognized school athletic teams and those who carry an interest in athletics.

FCA should not become an exclusive “club,” with restricted membership; however, a key principle in FCA’s strategy for reaching “athletes and coaches” is for the commonality of athletics with those in the group to remain obvious.

Article IV – Officers and Elections

► Section I: Officers to be Elected

The (name of school) Fellowship of Christian Athletes shall have officers as follows:

1. Captain
2. Co-Captain
3. Recruiter
4. Secretary
5. Treasurer

► Section II: Qualifications of Officers

An officer must be a member of the (name of school) Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a paid National FCA Teammate, in agreement with FCA’s Statement of Faith and mission and meet any qualifications set by the school for holding office in an organization that is consistent with FCA’s mission and beliefs.

► Section III: Duties of Officers

- A. Captain will preside over all meetings, work with other Huddle officers and Huddle Coaches in planning programs, give direction in setting group goals and demonstrate Christian leadership qualities.
- B. Co-Captain will assist the Captain in any way, inform members of meeting time and place, assist in program planning and take care of any physical needs of the meeting.
- C. Recruiter will promote official membership in FCA by coordinating a fall and spring National Teammate Drive each year, collecting the fees and completing rosters and mailing them to FCA’s Home Office in Kansas City.
- D. Secretary will keep a record of each meeting, handle the Huddle Renewal Form for the Huddle and take care of any other written correspondence.
- E. Treasurer will be responsible for all funds acquired by the organization, paying bills and keeping record of all income and disbursements.