

SERMON GUIDES

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add in any optional scriptures and questions if needed, then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Life and Football: The Cost of Winning | WEEK # 1

01.

INTRODUCTION

This is the first sermon comparing the Christian life with football. Are you doing your best with what is needed to win?

02.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matt 16:24-26

1. Gordon opened with the statement that for those who follow football "It's the most wonderful time of the year". Christian football fans should get just as excited about Jesus as they do about football. What do you have to do to compete at the high level sports? What is expected of the high level Christian life? What things have you been doing or could you do to lead a high level Christian life?
2. Paul's letter to the Corinthians indicated he knew about the Olympic style games played in competition with neighboring cities – track, wrestling, javelin etc. Winners got a crown, a wreath of plants placed on the head. How can you know if you are wearing a Christian crown?

Read Corinthians 9:24-26

3. Go all out; don't just go through motions. The winning of a Christian crown requires Effort, Self-Discipline, and Sacrifice. Peyton Manning, even though a football star, read Letterman's scripts preparing for his visit on Jay's show, and put his hand in ice water before throwing to simulate freezing weather during the playoffs. How does Manning's actions show he was preparing for high level sports? What are some examples in your life where you have exhibited effort, self-discipline and/or sacrifice in your walk with Christ? Are there things in your life now that you need to change?
4. We like to think of the Christian life as not complicated; just read the Bible occasionally, pray occasionally and attend church occasionally. Do you think this is enough? What else would you add to the list?

Read Matthew 16:24-26 Disciples are asked to take up their cross, just as Jesus did.

5. Are you doing your best? Do you ever feel like doing your best is not good enough? Do you struggle with trying to be great in all things you do? Do you think too much is expected of Christians?
6. What are your spiritual gifts? How are you using them in the Christian service?

SERMON GUIDES

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add in any optional scriptures and questions if needed, then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

7. Pastor Gordon talked about our priorities in life. What are your priorities? Do you prioritize your walk with Christ? If not, what steps can you take to allow Christ to be your priority in everything you do?



NEXT STEPS

1. Where there areas of your life that in 2019 you were just going through the motions that you want to give your best in 2020?
2. Read the Wesley Covenant Prayer daily.

Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
Put me to doing, put me to suffering;
Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
Exalted for you, or brought low for you;
Let me be full,
Let me be empty,
Let me have all things,
Let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.