

Get in the Game

DTR Kids Camp Devotions

by Jesse Joyner

Introduction:

The following 4 sessions can be used as devotions during camp. These devotions will directly relate, in order to what Jesse The Juggle will be teaching. We are also giving your group the camp memory verse, so you can get your kids ready.

Please make the copies needed to distribute this to your students.

Big Idea:

God wants us to stop being spectators and start becoming players in His game (the Kingdom of God).

Bible Focus:

The Bible is full of heroes and heroines who show us what it means to be an active participant in God's game. We will look at 8 people in the Old Testament who show us both how to and how not to be participants in God's Kingdom.

Sporting Theme:

This summer is the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England. We will use inspirational stories and events from Olympic history (and some current stories) to help illustrate the Biblical ideas of each lesson.

DTR Camp - Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Teaching Sessions

Session 1: “If You Can’t Beat ‘Em, Join ‘Em” (Genesis 32:22-32)

Jacob was a crafty man. The grandson of Abraham, he got himself into a lot of trouble. But one day, God showed him who was in charge by sending a mysterious angel to wrestle him in the middle of the night. Let’s find out who won that wrestling match....

Session 2: “We All Have Different Gifts Given By God” (Exodus 35:30-36:8)

Bezalel is not very well known. But he performed a great service for God and His sanctuary when Moses and the people traveled towards the Promised Land. Let’s find out what he did and why his example is important for you and I today....

Session 3: “How Will You Use Your Strength?” (Judges 14:1-16:31)

Samson was probably the strongest man in the Old Testament. He was given the special ability of great strength by God. Let’s find out whether he used that strength for good or evil....

Session 4: “Your God Will Be My God” (Ruth 1:16)

Ruth was a simple girl from a simple town. But her bold faith took her to a place that made her an indispensable part of God’s plan to save the world. And kids today can be like Ruth in God’s plan still today...

Session 1: Jacob

“If You Can’t Beat ‘Em, Join ‘Em”

Genesis 32:22-32

Jacob was a crafty man. The grandson of Abraham, he got himself into a lot of trouble. But one day, God showed him who was in charge by sending a mysterious angel to wrestle him in the middle of the night. Let’s find out who won that wrestling match....

Olympic Event: Wrestling (discuss how wrestling works in the Olympics and show some pictures or videos that you can easily find online)

Bible Story: Read Genesis 32:22-32 together

Questions for Discussion:

1. Have you ever seen a sport wrestling match (not WWE, we’re talking about school wrestling or Olympic wrestling)? Have you yourself ever tried that kind of wrestling? What was it like? How did the winner win?
2. Who usually wins wrestling matches?
3. What happened to Jacob when he was crossing the Jabok River? Who do you think that mysterious person was?
4. What would you have done if you were Jacob that night?
5. What was Jacob’s new name after the wrestling match? Why did he get that name?
6. You can try to be your own god in life, but will you ever be stronger than the One True God? What is life like when we go against God? What is life like if we join God’s side?

Summary: God sent an angel to wrestle with Jacob and it was a close match. They wrestled allnight long. The angel gave Jacob a limp and Jacob demanded that the angel bless him before they parted ways. The angel gave him a new name, Israel, which means “wrestled with God”. Jacob left a new person and was strengthened in his walk with God because of it.

Bottom Line: God is the one who strengthens us in life. If we try to fight Him, He’ll win, and we’ll want to join His side.

Session 2: Bezalel

“We All Have Different Gifts Given By God”

Exodus 35:30-36:8

Bezalel is not very well known. But he performed a great service for God and His sanctuary when Moses and the people traveled towards the Promised Land. Let's find out what he did and why his example is important for you and I today....

Olympic Story: Medal-Making (show pictures of Olympic medals which can easily be found online)

Bible Story: Read Exodus 35:30-36:8 together

Questions for Discussion:

1. Did you notice in the Bible story which medals Bezalel was gifted in crafting? (*Gold, Silver, Bronze!*). He was an Olympian medal maker!
2. Was Bezalel a very famous person in the Bible? Have you ever heard of him before?
3. Where did Bezalel's skill come from, according to the Bible story?
4. Some people are very famous and do big things in front of lots of people. Can you name some superstars in today's culture?
5. Other people do things “behind the scenes” and never become famous, but their work still glorifies God and their gifts are just as important to God's Kingdom as more “famous” people. Bezalel was like this. Can you think of gifts that God gives us that might be more “behind the scenes” gifts? (*praying for people, studying and learning things, helping people outside of the limelight, writing, creating and designing things, etc.*)

Summary: Bezalel was filled with the Spirit of God and glorified God by doing “behind the scenes” work (making beautiful crafts and arts for the tabernacle). He shows us that you don't have to be famous or have the “up front” gifts to do big things for God. We all have different gifts and all are equally necessary in God's kingdom.

Bottom Line: God gives us all different gifts and those gifts are all equally needed in God's kingdom.

Session 3: Samson

“How Will You Use Your Strength?”

Judges 14:1-16:31

Samson was probably the strongest man in the Old Testament. He was given the special ability of great strength by God. Let's find out whether he used that strength for good or evil....

Olympic Event: Weightlifting (find pictures & videos online and show the kids Olympic weightlifting). The world record is 580 lbs (that one man lifted with barbells)!

Bible Story: Read Judges 16:1-31 together

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the heaviest thing you have ever lifted? Have you ever tried to lift something but you weren't able to because it was too heavy? What happened?
2. How do people usually get stronger?
3. Where did Samson's strength come from? (*the Spirit of God*)
4. God used Samson's strength to do some good things. Do you know what some of those things were? (*defeating God's enemies at the time, the Philistines*)
5. Samson had a problem. There was one thing that would always distract him from doing the right thing. What was that? (*he always seemed to hang around the wrong kind of women, which was his downfall*)
6. Delilah found out what was necessary to take away Samson's strength. What was that? (*cut his hair*)
7. Samson is listed as a hero of the Bible in the book of Hebrews (Heb 11:32), but he's one of those heroes who could have been so much more had he not been distracted by women. What are some things in your life that can distract you from living the full calling that God has on your life?

Summary: Samson had a gift of strength. He used it to defeat evil. But he also let evil into his life (through women) and lost his strength because of it. He died in bondage to the Philistines, but was able to ask God for his strength one last time to take out his captors with him (by pushing the pillars of the Philistine temple down).

Bottom Line: God gives us our strength. He wants us to use it for His kingdom and we can fully do that when we avoid temptations and distractions.

Session 4: Ruth

“Your God Will Be My God”

Ruth 1:16

Ruth was a simple girl from a simple town. But her bold faith took her to a place that made her an indispensable part of God’s plan to save the world. And kids today can be like Ruth in God’s plan still today...

Olympic Event: Tennis (show pictures and videos from Olympic tennis easily found online – particularly the life of Monica Seles, because she will be highlighted in the teachings at camp)

Bible Story: Read Ruth 1:16 and give the kids a summary of the book of Ruth

Questions for Discussion:

1. Have you ever heard of Monica Seles? She was the number one women’s tennis player in the world about 20 years ago. She won a bronze medal in the Olympics for the USA. But she’s from Yugoslavia. So how did she do that? Well, she changed her citizenship to become an American.
2. There was a special woman in the Bible who changed her citizenship. We just read about her. What was her name? (*Ruth*)
3. Ruth wanted to go with her mother-in-law, Naomi, even though Naomi encouraged her to stay behind. What did Ruth end up saying to Naomi? (*your people will be my people and your God will be my God*)
4. What kinds of things do you think Ruth had to give up to leave her home country? Do you think that was hard?
5. Ruth later made a bold move and courted and eventually married a guy named Boaz. Do you know why Boaz is well-known? (*Boaz and Ruth were the great-grandparents of King David, which was the family line that eventually brought us Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world*)

Summary: Ruth gave up her home, her country, even her own religion – to follow the one true God. This placed her in a new country where God used her bold faith to become an ancestor of Jesus Christ – a necessary part of God’s plan to save the world.

Bottom Line: Following God means we have to give up a lot of things in life – sometimes the things we hold very dearly and closely. But God always has a bigger plan in mind when we follow Him as our God.