

Campus Voice

SPRING/SUMMER, 2018

MINISTRY LESSONS FROM WRESTLING

The sport of wrestling is not for the faint at heart. Now I am talking about real wrestling, not the entertaining stuff where guys are being smashed over the head with chairs. Serving as the team chaplain and being in the wrestling room watching and listening has taught me many valuable lessons that apply to ministry. Here are a few lessons that I have been challenged by.

Preparation.

The guys prepare with rigorous training and exercise. Six days a week the wrestlers and coaches are practicing, lifting weights, going through mental training, cardio workouts, and much more. They are carefully watching their weight and nutrient intake. All this careful attention is given so that their bodies are at their best. These guys put much time and effort into their preparation. What are they preparing for? Seven minutes out on the mat facing off against their opponent.

It forces me to ask the question, how serious do we take our preparation for ministry? Preparation for ministry does not end with a college degree or some training course. Preparation is a continual daily task focused on keeping our spirit, heart, and mind at their best. We should strive to improve ourselves in the area of ministry God has placed us. Continued training, deeper study, reading resources, practicing and applying what you are learning are just a few of the ways to continue preparing. In God's work, we are forever in the training room equipping ourselves to be the best we can.

Determination.

The persistence of the wrestlers is staggering. They set goals and work hard to achieve those goals. They persevere through the obstacles, defeat, pain, heartache, and even injury. Their mind is focused on one thing, wrestling. The guys are determined to give it everything they have each time they step out on the mat. There is no room for laziness or giving up. It is all or nothing.

How determined are we to do what the King of the earth has called us to? Is our determination to make it as easy as possible and to make sure we do not get our feelings hurt? Ministry is all about people. We are going to get hurt and disappointed. We will also disappoint ourselves! We must remember who we are working for! Jesus Christ! We must remember what Jesus went through and the determination He had to accomplish God's will! There was no turning back. May you and I be determined to give it everything we have each and everyday!

Devotion.

The wrestlers eat, sleep, and wrestle. That is what they do. It is their life. They have a commitment to themselves, the team, and the coaches. They absolutely love the sport and are faithful to what it will take to succeed.



ONE-ON-ONE BIBLE STUDIES

There are some students who desire to dig deeper into the Bible than just what the weekly meeting will offer. There are some students who would love to be discipled and spend more time with a mentor. Having a one-on-one Bible study with another student is an awesome opportunity for discipleship to happen. This is always a male with a male and a female with a female. This is a time that the two of you can really get to know each other. It will provide opportunities to learn more intimate details about each other's life. Special prayer request will be shared. Questions and concerns will naturally come up. This will build a special and unique relationship between the two of you. This is what Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations is all about.



Maybe you struggle with how to get a discipling relationship going. It may be that you think there are no students who would actually want to get together one-on-one to study the Bible and pray.

You may be surprised! Think about the students and single adults in your church or ministry. Who is expressing interest in growth and serving? Who would you love to see grow and become a leader? Maybe there is a newer believer who seems to have a lot of questions. Identify a couple of students that you would consider spending some additional time with and begin by asking one. This is typically a weekly or bi-weekly meeting time. It can be at a coffee shop, over lunch, at your house, at a dorm, or an apartment.

NO ROOM FOR JEALOUSY

The college campus has anywhere from a few thousand to 50,000 plus students. In order to reach this number of students and make an impact it will take team work. One or two people cannot possibly do it all. The college campus is like a city. Many cities will typically have entire churches of hundreds

or even thousands of people working together to reach that city. Reaching the college campus takes a team effort. There is no room for jealousy in campus ministry.

The idea that these are "my students" or this is "my ministry" is unbiblical and dangerous. They are God's students and it is an outreach of the church.

Getting upset because someone else is connecting with other students that you are not able to connect with is way off-base. It is impossible for you to connect with all the different personalities and backgrounds let alone there will not be enough of you to go around to all the students. This is why other workers are so important. They will connect with the students you cannot and bring growth that you cannot bring without these workers.

So what do we do during this time? It does not need to be a formal meeting where you are preaching to the student. Allow it to be very casual and relaxed. Enjoy a little time of conversation and cutting up. Share prayer requests before or after the actual study. The Bible study can vary in many ways. You could use available Bible study material and go through it together. You could take questions the student has from the Bible and study the answer. Walking through a small book of the Bible is another great way. There is no set or right way. Make sure to incorporate the student into the study and have him or her participate. Ask questions to get them

involved. As the student grows, encourage and challenge him or her to lead half of the study or rotate week

to week. This allows the student to try leading a study in a safe and comfortable atmosphere.

You may be saying that this sounds wonderful and all but you have no idea how busy my schedule is. There is no way to fit something new in. Then do not add something new rather include it with something you already do! People usually eat lunch or grab coffee. Allow this to be a possible time when the meeting happens. If you are normally home on Thursday evenings then invite the student to your house. Do life and include the student in it.

Getting jealous because someone else seems gifted in an area that you are not breaks down team work. Each person has a special gift that God can use. God created the body of Christ this way so it can function and flourish. Love your gift and the gift of others. Use the diversity of gifts to bring growth to the ministry. Organizing a ministry so that it cannot survive without you is short sighted and selfish. It is now all about you and not all about God. We should

constantly strive to train others so that they can step right in if we are not able to be there. This also multiplies our efforts tremendously when they are laboring with us.

Remember we are all working for the same God, for the same purpose, and for the same goal. There is no room for jealousy. We are all on the same team together! Team work makes the dream work. May God help each of us to search our hearts to ensure we are not causing harm to God's ministry.

SUMMER TIME CHECK LIST



Summer is a great time of year especially for campus ministry. School is out so there is a time to relax and catch your breath from the business of the school year. It provides a great time to reflect on all that God has done. Reflecting on what worked and what did not. Summer break is also a great time to regroup and get prepared for the upcoming school year. The more preparation you can do ahead of time, the easier it will be with the rush of the start of the school year. Here is a checklist to work at:

- *Take a vacation!*
- *Make sure your recognition status is renewed.*
- *Register for your fall semester welcome week events.*
- *Register to help for move-in day.*
- *Take a nap!*
- *Stay in touch with students over the summer.*
- *Plan the fall semester calendar.*
- *Get promotional material ready & printed.*
- *Update website & social sites.*
- *Recruit and train workers.*
- *Read up on campus ministry resources.*
- *Pray & plan for next school year's Bible study theme.*

JOIN US AT THE LOVING & LEADING CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER

We are excited to be a part of the Loving and Leading Conference on November 1-3, 2018, hosted by First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio. This conference places an emphasis on training and equipping christian workers. There will be numerous workshops available including specific ones dealing with campus ministry.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us here where you can learn in detail about how to establish a ministry on the college campus, ways of ministering to international students, how to confront unbelief, and the importance of the local church in a college student's life. You can learn more at lovingandleading.org

Continued from page 1

If someone asked God how devoted I am how would God respond? I'm a little scared of what His response might be. I must ask the questions to myself. How devoted am I to God, my wife, my child, and to the ministry God has given to me? Where are my priorities at? I can be fully devoted to each of these but It is a decision that I must make each and every day.

Team work.

Wrestling is one teammate at a time wrestling in his weight class. The rest of the team cannot help out on the mat. Though much of wrestling is an individual sport it all goes toward the overall goal and points of the team. When the individual wrestler succeeds the team succeeds. These

guys are a close knit family. They encourage and help each other. They practice together sharpening the skills they are being taught. They will call each other out if one is lacking in one of these areas to get them back on track.

The individual wrestler and the team pictures beautifully the believer and the church. As believers we are all on the same team! Each individual believer has his or her unique area of ministry. We each laborer at what God has given us individually but it is for the success of the church as a whole. If a believer succeeds then the church succeeds. If a believer begins lacking then the entire church lacks. We must encourage and help each other out. We must desire to help others so they can be the best that they can be. We should all be a close

knit family all working for the same Savior and for the same goal!

Wrestlers do all this to face off against the opponent on the mat for seven minutes. Just the same we are engaged in a battle against an opponent that wants to tear us to pieces. Ephesians 6:12 says, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* Paul reminds us that we are in an army, engaged in a serious battle with a real enemy. I am so very challenged! How much purposeful preparation, determination, and devotion do I put into being a Christian in the Lord's army? May God help each of us to get serious about what is really important and to give our all to the Lord.

Campus Voice
is a publication of Collegians for Christ



Kyle Austin, Director



(828) 832-6505



austin@CFCCampusMinistry.com



CFCCampusMinistry.com