

Wisdom for a Young Head Coach

25 Bible Studies for Coaches from First and Second Timothy

Notes:

- The questions for discussion will appear in normal text like this.
- *Suggested answers, discussion hints and follow up questions will appear in italics like this.*

Focus on Your Goal

I Timothy 1:1-7

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - To whom does Paul (the mentor) write and how does he describe their relationship? (vv.1-2) *Timothy, my true child in the faith...*
 - With whom have you had or do you have a similar relationship in coaching? (v.2) Who is it? *Solicit stories of their mentors in coaching.*
 - What ideas or concepts in coaching just bring on controversy rather than further our goals? (vv.3-6) *Controversial techniques for training, motivation, etc...*
 - Who have you seen in coaching that acts like these men mentioned in verse 7? *Arrogant young coaches without experience, others...*
 - How do coaches pursue the goal mentioned in verse 5? Related to players? *Seeking their good, not just mine...* Related to their coaching staff? *Dealing honestly and honorably...* Related to their families? *Balancing the job with family time...* When do we stray from that goal? *When we lose focus on important matters and life priorities.*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Thank God for your mentor in the game and in the faith.
 - Focus on the things that really matter.
 - Pursue the goal of love from a pure heart and a good conscience.

Qualified to Coach

I Timothy 1:8-14

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - What sorts of laws (rules and regulations) are good when used properly in coaching? (v.8) *Recruiting rules, training restrictions, drug rules, g.p.a. regulations...* Why do they exist? *To protect those who could be easily abused.*
 - What is the primary function or objective of the Law? *To expose error.*
 - From verse 11, what is the standard by which we judge truth or error in our coaching (doctrine)? *The glorious gospel of the blessed God.*
 - For what is Paul thankful? (v.12) *That God considered him faithful...* When were/are you most thankful for your opportunity to be a coach? *Solicit a story or situation.*
 - What was there in Paul's past that should have disqualified him for such service? (v.13) *He was a blasphemer, persecutor and violently aggressive toward the Church.* How about for

you? What could have disqualified you from your service as a coach? *Foolish mistakes, errors in judgment, youthful indiscretions...*

- How have you experienced God's mercy, grace, faith and love as a coach? *Stories of how God has shown them mercy in spite of their errors listed in previous question.*

3. Weekly Summary:

- Remember that rules are useful, primarily to expose error in the rebellious.
- Be thankful for your opportunity to coach.
- Thank God for his mercy and grace in your life.
- Share God's grace and mercy with others as an example to them.

Fight the Good Fight

I Timothy 1:15-20

1. Read the text aloud.

2. Discussion Questions:

- When did you fully accept the statement in verse 15? *Ask them when they received Christ Jesus as Savior. Why would Paul consider himself the worst of sinners? He's very aware of his sins and former life of rebellion.*
- In what way has Christ displayed His mercy and patience with you in coaching? (vv.15-16) *By not removing them from coaching, by preserving them through hard times, losing streaks, etc... How has that been an example to others? Did others in the program see those times as mercy and patience from God?*
- Whom does Paul consider to be worthy of honor and glory for his present status? (v.17) *The King eternal (God). How does he describe Him? King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God...*
- How is coaching like a good fight? (v.18) *Real opponents, real pain, struggle, blood, sweat, tears... What's good about it? It teaches us about ourselves, we build real relationships with friends, coaches, and teammates...*
- How do faith and good conscience affect how one coaches? (v.19) *They can keep us from errors, make us more concerned for God's will and other's best interests, less self-serving.*
- Whom have you seen shipwreck their coaching careers like the two guys mentioned in verse 20? *Solicit stories of coaches who have crashed their careers by foolish and out of control lives. How do we avoid such trouble? (vv.18-19) Through fellowship, maintaining our faith and a good conscience...*

3. Weekly Summary:

- Remember that Christ Jesus died for the worst of sinners, even us.
- Honor God for how He brought you to this position.
- Fight the good fight, not just any fight.
- Watch out for coaches who are about to shipwreck their careers. Stay off that ship!

Positions of Purpose

I Timothy 2:1-7

1. Read the text aloud.

2. Discussion Questions:

- For whom does Paul urge Timothy to pray? (vv.1-2) *All men, kings, those in authority...*
- As coaches, who are our kings and those with authority in our profession and calling? *Athletic Directors, university chancellors and presidents, local government...* How can we pray for them? *For good working relationships, for favor with them, for their salvation, for health, etc...*
- Why is it good and pleasing to God when we pray for our leaders, administrators, etc? (vv.3-4) *This is the way God views people and He's pleased when we reflect His nature.* In what way could verse 4 be an indicator of a proper subject of prayer for those people? *To pray for them to know Christ is certainly God's will and would be good for all concerned.*
- According to verses 5 and 6, how many ways are there for us to experience a relationship with God? *One...* How did Christ serve as a ransom for all men? *His life was given for everyone who would believe.*
- As a coach, how do you similarly pay a ransom for your staff and players? *Sacrifice and doing without.* What do you sacrifice in order to coach more effectively? *Time with family, more lucrative career options...* What does it cost you to be a coach? *Sleepless nights, anxiety, stress...*
- To what offices was Paul appointed and for what purpose? (v.7) *Preacher, apostle, teacher to the Gentiles.* To what positions and for what purpose are you in coaching? *Assistant, coordinator, head coach, administrator... to train players, to build people of character...*

Staff Attitudes

I Timothy 2:8-15

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - What attitudes are evident in Paul's request at verse 8? *Prayerful attitude, without wrath, without dissension.* How do we maintain them in a coaching staff? *Stay focused on our need for God, solve disputes quickly, and build team unity...*
 - From what we read in verses 9-15, what is the value of modesty and wise behavior for women associated with your program? *They will not be deceived nor a distraction for others in the program. They will be examples of faith, love, sanctity and self-restraint.*
 - What sorts of behavior and attitudes in those women could be detrimental to the program and staff relationships? *Overbearing, demanding and controlling personalities, promiscuity, being flirtatious, distracting behavior of any sort.*
 - Which women in your program display the attitudes and behavior that are worthy of encouragement and recognition? *Give me a name and the characteristics that are worthy of encouragement...* How can you and your staff honor them? *Notes of thanks, encouraging letters, flowers, plaques or other decorative items, public recognition...*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Foster proper attitudes in your staff.
 - Encourage proper attitudes and behavior among women associated with your program.
 - Watch for ways to honor those who model the attitudes and lives you want to encourage.

Choosing a Staff with Character

I Timothy 3:1-13

1. Read the text aloud.

2. Discussion Questions:

- What would be noble about being an overseer? *The position has responsibility and authority... What would be a coaching equivalent to that role? Head Coach.*
- What attitudes, abilities and behavior are listed as important for that role? (vv.2-7) *Answers are in the text... Why are these important? (v.5) If he can't handle his own family, how could he manage others' kids?*
- If a deacon were different than an overseer, what coaching role would be similar to it? (vv.8-13) *Assistant coach, coordinator, etc...*
- Who on your staff coaches in a way that's reflective of these qualities? (vv.8-12) *Tell us about a coach that has these qualities. Which of these traits stands out in him/her? Pick one or two of his/her best qualities.*
- How do coaches who serve well gain assurance and an excellent standing? *Others notice their good work and character often resulting in better opportunities, promotions, confidence and security.*

3. Weekly Summary:

- Focus on the character of your staff and on your own character.
- Encourage and reward your staff members who exhibit good character.
- Expect that your staff's good character will result in their receiving job offers and opportunities to go elsewhere. They become a reflection of your leadership.

An E-mail from the Coach

I Timothy 3:14-16

1. Read the text aloud.

2. Discussion Questions:

- How valuable is it for you to regularly communicate with your mentor in coaching? (v. 14) *What's the value of a phone call or e-mail from your mentor? How do you do that and with whom? Phone calls with college coach...E-mail from coach you formerly worked under...Christmas cards from your high school coach...*
- What seems to be the purpose of Paul's writing these instructions? (v.15) *So Timothy will know how to conduct himself.*
- In review of chapters 1-3, which ideas are most poignant to you related to proper conduct within your staff? *Focus on your goals? God's mercy to qualify you to serve? Fighting the good fight? Having purpose for your position? Proper staff attitudes? Choosing a staff with character? Others...?*
- What is mysterious about the poetry of verse 16? *Contrasts in each pair of verses... Revealed in flesh, but vindicated by Spirit... Beheld by angels, but proclaimed among nations...*
- Why is it such a mystery for us to grasp that the God described in chapter 1 verse 17, would undergo a process like chapter 3 verse 16? *Why would a God so powerful, immortal, and invisible come to the earth and pay the price of death for us?*

3. Weekly Summary:

- Make some time to call or write your mentor this week. I'm sure he/she would love to hear from you.
- Leave room for some mystery in your faith and in the game.
- Realize the wonder that's a part of the Gospel. God chose us to love Him.

Train with Wisdom

I Timothy 4:1-8

1. Read the text aloud.

2. Discussion Questions:

- When have you seen coaches use odd or foolish training techniques with their players? (vv.1-3) *Denying them water, over-training, encouraging fighting, ignoring steroid use...*
- What is often the source of such destructive methods of training and motivation? (v.2) *A conscience that's numb or dead.*
- What are some very good things that have been withheld from players by coaches you know? (vv.3-4) *Water, food, family time, social time...* What is shown here to be a healthier attitude? (vv.4-5) *Thankfulness for all things with prayer.*
- According to verse 6, what is the evidence of being a good coach (minister)? *Pointing out the ideas from vv.3-5 and being nourished on the words of faith and sound doctrine.*
- How much physical training do you do weekly? *How many hours in what forms... running, weight training...?* What is its benefit? (vv. 7-8) *Physical health, clear mind, etc...*
- How much godliness training do you do weekly? *How many hours in what forms... Bible reading, worship, prayer...?* What is its benefit? (v. 8) *For all things...in this life and in the next... Clear conscience, wisdom, good relationships...*

3. Weekly Summary:

- Watch out for foolish and destructive training techniques.
- Be thankful for all that God gives and don't withhold good things from your staff and players.
- Keep a proper balance between your physical and spiritual training. Don't neglect either.

Solid Hope for Coaches

I Timothy 4:9-15

1. Read the text aloud.

2. Discussion Questions:

- How does one place his hope in the Living God? (vv.9-10) *By trusting Christ as his savior and Lord. Through faith and in prayer.* How is God described in verse 10? *The Living God who is the Savior of all men.*
- How is He the savior of those who believe? *He has rescued us from our sins.* How so for those who don't believe? *His grace has been extended to them as well, even before they have received Him. His life in believers has restored God's ways in them and that impacts even those who are not yet Christians.* (...all men... verse 10)
- How can younger head coaches rise above the tendency of people to disrespect them because of their youth? (vv.11-16) *Read the attitudes and actions in these verses.*
- Who among your coaching peers sets a great example as in verse 12? *Tell us about a young coach who is doing a great job with a wise attitude.*
- To what coaching methods and philosophies are you devoted? (v.13) *What are the foundational principles that guide your coaching?*
- How are you and/or others on your staff uniquely gifted as coaches? (v.14) *List the gifts and abilities that your staffers each possess.*

- How does one measure diligence in coaching? (v.15) *Is it measured simply in hours? Is it measured by wins and losses? Is it measured in character?* How do we monitor the values that guide our lives and our staff? (vv.15-16) *How do we keep an eye on more than just the nuts and bolts of coaching? How do you keep a proper perspective on the big picture?*
- 3. Weekly Summary:**
- Maintain your trust in the Living God through faith and prayer.
 - Follow the example shown in Paul's instructions to Timothy.
 - Keep a focus on your coaching values, your staff's gifts and wisely measure diligence.

Mutual Respect

I Timothy 5:1-16

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - When have you seen a senior staff member harshly corrected or otherwise treated with less respect than is due him/her? (v.1) *Who has seen a young coach rudely correct a senior staff member? Tell us the story. Why would Paul warn against this? It tears down team unity, breeds disrespect and gossip, etc...*
 - What is a more honorable way to treat those on your staff who have greater experience? (v.1) *Appeal to him as a father, with respect and honor.*
 - How should we relate to the younger coaches on our staff? (v.1) *Like brothers.* Share an example of how that has been done with or by you. *How has another coach shown you proper respect and welcomed your input or opinion?*
 - What attitudes should guide our relationships with women associated with our program? (v.2) *Treat the older women as mothers. The younger like sisters.* How do these apply with women otherwise? In our families, churches, the community, etc...?
 - What qualities describe the way we relate to our mothers? (v.2) *Respect and honor...* How about our sisters? *Respect and purity...*
 - If a suddenly displaced athlete or coach were like a widow, what kinds of things can happen that would isolate them from the normal life of the team? (vv.9-16) *Injury, suspension, disciplinary benching, illness...* Are there circumstances that require handling each situation differently? How so? *You wouldn't handle the 5th year senior leader who becomes injured in the same way as a freshman who repeatedly breaks team rules.*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Beware of disrespecting an older coach on your staff.
 - Give proper respect to the young coaches on your staff as well.
 - Lead your staff to conduct themselves wisely with the women around your program.
 - Use wisdom in dealing with those who are suddenly displaced or isolated from the program.

Double Honor

I Timothy 5:17-21

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - What makes our senior staff members who display excellence worthy of double honor? (v.17) *They're worthy when they lead well and work hard.*

- Who do you know who is worthy of such honor? *Who on your staff is like this? What distinguishes his/her work? Tell us a story or give an example.*
 - How should we properly compensate our staff members who work hard at teaching and training? (v.18) *Is money the only way to compensate? How can we “pay” them in ways that are better than money? Public recognition, attaboys with the team and staff, thank you gifts, encouraging notes, “good job” meetings...*
 - On what basis should one hear a complaint regarding a member of your staff? (vv.19-20) *Only on the basis of two or three witnesses. Not because of a rumor or gossip.*
 - If a staff member has committed a gross error, what is a proper forum for his/her correction? (v.20) *Within the staff or possibly with the whole team. Not in public or the press.*
 - Why would Paul warn so strongly against partiality and favoritism in keeping his instructions? (v.21) *Partiality and favoritism are contrary to God’s righteousness and justice. They pervert the principles that are foundational to our values.*
- 3. Weekly Summary:**
- Look for ways to “pay” your staff that go beyond money.
 - Be careful to only hear complaints about your staffers that come with proper facts and credibility.
 - Correct and restore those in error with wisdom and without favoritism.

Make Wise Choices

I Timothy 5:22-25

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - What are some dangers that go along with hastily choosing staff members? (v.22) *You could share in their foolish decisions and behavior.*
 - What might a Head Coach do that would have him share in the guilt of a staff member’s foolish actions? (v.22) *He could ignore an obvious flaw of character or a pattern of behavior that’s easily seen before his hiring.*
 - How does a coach maintain his purity when others on the staff may be very impure? *Abstain from participation in the impure behaviors or attitudes...*
 - What is required for your well being that others may see as a weakness or otherwise criticize your use of it? (v.23) *A minimum amount of sleep, prescriptions, a special diet...*
 - What coach(es) do you know whose errors were quickly met with exposure and judgement? (v.24) *A coach who got caught cheating, recruiting violations, drug abuse...*
 - What coach(es) do you know whose errors stayed hidden from public view until his/her retirement or death? *A coach in an extra-marital affair, addicted to pornography, a secret drunk, abusive of his children...*
 - How do a coach’s obvious good deeds come to light? (v.25) *Their players or coaching staff tell others about them. Parents or others notice their quality. How about the less obvious good deeds? As they retire, the player tells about a private meeting with the coach. At a funeral, the staff member tells about his mentor’s influence upon his life...*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Choose your staff wisely and deliberately.
 - Maintain your personal purity, even when others in the program may be acting foolishly.
 - Remember that both our best and worst moments will come to light eventually.

How Much Money is Enough?

I Timothy 6:1-10

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - What sort of attitude should the most junior staff member have toward the Head Coach? (v.1) *The Coach is worthy of all honor.*
 - What difference should it make to those staff members whether or not the Head Coach is a believer in Christ or not? (v.2) *It should make no difference at all. Why? Some Christians could presume preferential treatment from a Christian Head Coach and that would be improper.*
 - What sorts of attitudes often underlie the aberrant training and motivational methods used by some coaches? (vv.3-5) *Conceit, ignorance, morbid interests, envy, strife, abusive speech, evil suspicions, depraved minds, greed...*
 - How do we gain greatly through godliness with contentment? (vv.7-8) *A grateful attitude and proper perspective...*
 - What are some inherent dangers for the coach who is motivated by greed? (vv.9-10) *They fall into temptation and traps, ruin and destruction, all sorts of evil...*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Watch for improper attitudes within your staff. They may assume you'll give them preferential treatment if they're Christians.
 - Discern the attitudes that may be behind that odd training technique or motivational method.
 - Watch out for greed... live a life of contentment.

Flee, Pursue, Fight, Grasp...

I Timothy 6:11-16

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - Paul exhorts Timothy to flee from what? (v.11) *Those things listed in verses 3-10.*
 - What does he call him to pursue? (v.11) *Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. How does one display these qualities in coaching? Take them one by one and apply to coaching... Righteousness in coaching looks like... Godliness in coaching looks like... Faith in coaching looks like... Love... Perseverance... Gentleness...*
 - What about your faith and its impact upon your coaching are worth fighting for? (v.12) *Its value to your life. Biblical values of right and wrong. What is not worth a fight? Mere matters of opinion... Sectarian doctrines... Cultural forms of Christian expression...*
 - How is your "good confession" of faith similar to Christ Jesus' "good confession" of faith before Pontius Pilate? (vv.12-13) *I confessed that Jesus is God, the Savior and Lord of my life.*
 - How long shall we hold to our values for coaching and our faith in Christ? (vv.13-16) *Until the day of His appearing.*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Flee from foolish things and pursue the list from verse 11.

- Pick your fights well and wisely. Don't fight over foolish matters.
- Make the good confession and keep a long-term view of your faith.

Coach's Final Commands

I Timothy 6:17-21

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - Why is wealth, which leads to arrogance among coaches and/or others associated with the program, such an insecure source of hope? (v.17) *It's uncertain in its origin and can disappear as quickly as it arrived.*
 - What can we do as coaches to be rich as described in verses 18 and 19? *Invest in the people around us, our staff and players. Be generous. What are such good deeds? Giving second chances, overlooking offenses, loving the unlovely, patience with difficult people...*
 - What are you doing to guard the instruction of your mentor(s) and the wisdom gathered from your coaching contemporaries? *Keep a journal, compile a notebook, catalog videotapes...*
 - With whom are you sharing such instruction and wisdom? *Assistant coaches, players, graduate assistants, coaches in other programs...*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Watch out for the deceptive power of greed.
 - Invest deeply in the people of your program.
 - Guard and pass on the wisdom and instruction you've gained from your mentors in coaching and life.

Coach with Power, Love and Self Control

II Timothy 1:1-7

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - How would your coaching be changed if you were to receive more grace, mercy and peace from God? (v.2) *I'd feel less stressed, less pressured. I'd have better relationships with my staff...*
 - Tell us about a coach or a player for whom you've been a mentor. *Who is watching you for direction and guidance? What is your strongest recollection of him/her? Tell a story about his/her strongest character traits. How do you pray for him/her now? (vv.3-5) Do you pray for his/her coaching, family, faith, and career choices...?*
 - What gifts do you bring to the coaching profession that you can fan into flame? (v.6) *Is it passion, vision, understanding of the sport, motivational abilities...?*
 - What happens to our team when our coaching is driven by fear? (v.7) *We become driven by a need to control everything, we withdraw from people, and we become defensive and protective of ourselves...*
 - How is it different when it's full of power, love and self-control? (v.7) *We're confident of our abilities and of God's guidance. We're looking out for the other's best interest. We're under control, not being pushed around by every fear or question.*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Ask God for more grace, mercy and peace in your life.

- Pass on to another young coach the wisdom God has given to you.
- Put away fear and coach with power, love and self-control.

Unashamed Suffering

II Timothy 1:8-12

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - What could lead to a young coach being ashamed of his mentor? (vv.8-10) *His foolish behavior or speech that dishonors God.*
 - What would make us ashamed to speak of our love for Christ Jesus? (v.8) *Fear of ridicule or misunderstanding. Fear that I couldn't defend my opinions.*
 - When have you been appointed to a coaching position that led directly to suffering? (vv.11-12) *Tell us a story about a position that came with suffering. How did you handle it? Give them some hope that it might be worth it.*
 - What under-girded Paul's confidence even while enduring such suffering? (v.12) *His knowledge of God and his confidence in Christ's ability to carry out His plan. What fuels your confidence while suffering continues? Trust in God's call, fellowship with other believers, encouragement from those also in the fight...*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Don't be ashamed of your mentor or of your Lord.
 - Be ready for the suffering that may come along with coaching.
 - Remain confident, even while suffering, that God's plan will be accomplished.

Refreshing Friends

II Timothy 1:13-18

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - What did you learn from your mentor that you still hold as foundational principles for your coaching philosophy? (vv.13-14) *What were the three or four coaching points he/she always talked about? How do you guard such valuable commodities? Keep a notebook, computer program, journal, note cards...*
 - Have you ever felt like you were abandoned as a coach? (v.15) *Fired without cause... Left hanging in a recruiting situation... What was the situation? Tell us the story...*
 - Who has been a refreshing friend to you like Onesiphorus was to Paul? (vv.16-18) *Another coach? A friend from church? Your spouse? A player?*
 - How can you be a refreshing friend to a coach who's embroiled in controversy? *Assure the person of our friendship. Spend time together. Speak well of your friend in public...*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Guard well the foundational principles you learned from your mentor.
 - Thank God for the friends that refresh our souls.
 - Be a refreshing friend to your friends who may be caught in a controversy.

Focus your Leadership

II Timothy 2:1-13

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - How can we be as focussed on our coaching staff and their development as Paul was with Timothy's development as a leader? (vv.1-2) *Regular meetings with them, prayer with and for them, having an understanding of their goals and dreams...*
 - How can we exhibit focus for leadership while enduring hardship like the soldier of verses 3 and 4? *By pressing through the pain and inconvenience of our work...*
 - What is the focus of the athlete in verse 5? *To win the prize.* How would that kind of focus shape our coaching? *We'd be more likely to achieve our goals if we would keep them in clear view.*
 - How much time do you spend in reflection, analysis and evaluation of your leadership with your staff? (v.7) *An hour a month? A day a year? An hour a day? How much?*
 - What have you endured for the sake of your coaches and athletes? *Misunderstanding, controversy, ridicule...*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Focus on developing your staff and equipping them to do the same.
 - Take some time to regularly analyze and evaluate your leadership of the staff.
 - Pay the price necessary to bring along the next generations of godly leaders and coaches.

Warnings and Reminders

II Timothy 2:14-19

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - What are the instructions and values about which you constantly remind and warn your staff? (v.14) *Academic excellence, honorable behavior, wisdom, hard work, passionate play...*
 - How does one reward a coach who has proven himself through hard work and wise use of speech? (v.15) *Public recognition, financial bonus, personal thanks...*
 - Where does godless chatter, like in verses 16-18, show up in the world of coaching? *Crude stories, gossip about other people, criticizing others on the staff...*
 - How does such godless chatter act like the gangrene mentioned in verse 17? *It eats away at the loyalty, respect and good will on a team...*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Keep the big ideas about coaching in front of your staff constantly.
 - Strongly reward the coaches who do particularly well.
 - Don't fall into godless chatter and its destructive pattern of criticism, second guessing and blame shifting.

Coaching with Honor

II Timothy 2:20-26

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**

- Which uniforms in your equipment room are more honorable, those used daily for practice or those only for game day? (vv.20-21) *Obviously the game jerseys are more honorable, they're only used on game day. Practice jerseys get used everyday.*
 - How do we pursue the nobility mentioned in verse 21? *By cleansing ourselves from the things listed above.* For what purposes does such nobility qualify us? (v.21) *For every good thing.*
 - What evil desires are common to coaches you know? (v.22) *Drunkness, promiscuous sex, greed...* What does Paul call us to do in relation to them? (v.22) *Flee from those things!!*
 - While fleeing those desires, toward what should we run in pursuit? (vv.22-23) *Righteousness, faith, love and peace...*
 - Who is the best coach you've ever known at handling quarrels and opposition? (vv.24-26) *Tell us about a coach...* What was key to his skill with problematic people and situations? *A cool head? Listening to all sides before he reacted? What was it?*
- 3. Weekly Summary:**
- Let's be the vessels of great honor this week.
 - Watch for God to reveal His purposes for you and your life as a coach.
 - Flee the things that wage war against your soul.
 - Pursue the things that give you real life.

Renegade Coaches

II Timothy 3:1-9

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - Which of the characteristics listed in verses 2-9 are evident in coaches or programs with which you're familiar? *Greed, arrogance, malicious, out of control, which?*
 - How do these coaches put up a front of proper conduct and good coaching, but if examined closely would be seen as without real power or substance? (v. 5) *They say the right things, but their behavior and attitudes betray them.*
 - How does Paul recommend that Timothy relate to such men? (v. 5) *Avoid them.* How would such a recommendation affect your hiring of staff? *I'd try to see these things about them before hiring them and choose someone else.*
 - What is the inevitable end for such coaches? (v. 9) *They'll be exposed and will not progress along the path.*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - Watch out for renegades and the baggage they could carry into your program.
 - Look below the surface to see their true character.
 - Avoid the renegades and watch as they self-destruct.

Continue in My Pattern

II Timothy 3:10-17

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - How often do you share stories of your coaching career with your peers? *Daily around the office or in staff meetings?* How has your mentor challenged you with his/her stories and

instruction? (vv.10-11) *Good decisions made, wisdom displayed in tough situations, insight and tact, others...*

- What might it cost you to live a godly lifestyle among your coaching peers? (vv.12-13) Possible *isolation from others, missed opportunities...* Is this likely to get better or worse? *If people continue to decline morally, it will get worse. Why? The world is in a steady decline.*
 - What are key coaching principles that you teach as a continuation of your mentor's instructions? (vv.14-15) *How is your coaching style an imitation of your mentor's?*
 - What or who is the source of Scripture? (v.16) *God is the source of the Bible.*
 - For what is the Scripture useful in coaching? (v.16) *Teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness...*
 - What is the intended result of scriptural instruction? (v.17) *That we may be adequate and equipped for every good work. How has the Bible equipped you and for what good work? Changed character for the good work of coaching/leading.*
- 3. Weekly Summary:**
- Pay attention to the stories shared among your staff. The stories are often a window to their values.
 - Pay the price to live a godly lifestyle among your peers. It's worth it.
 - Search the Scriptures for the wisdom you need as a coach.

Finishing Well

II Timothy 4:1-8

1. Read the text aloud.

2. Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever been given a charge by your mentor or been strongly challenged as you began a new assignment? (v.1) Tell us about that. *What did he ask you to do? What was the assignment that challenged your abilities the greatest?*
- What characteristics or principles of coaching are applicable both in and out of season? (v.2) *Rest, proper nutrition, good workouts, academic excellence...*
- When do your staff and players grow weary of sound coaching and instruction? (vv.3-4) *During losing streaks, when presented without creativity, when given in a whining tone...*
- How should we respond to such situations? (v.5) *Stay under control, press on, endure hardship, do the work, fulfill your role...*
- Have you ever been to the retirement party or a funeral for an elder coach? (vv.6-8) *Whose was it? Did he finish his career or life well or poorly? What was the end result of the coach's life? Good or bad? Pride or embarrassment for his family and friends?*

3. Weekly Summary:

- Occasionally look back on the challenging assignments in your career and how they shaped your life.
- Be prepared in season and out, to honor Christ will all of your life.
- Look for new and creative ways to teach and coach with wisdom.
- Finish your life and career well and you can look forward to a great reward.

Joy in Grief

II Timothy 4:9-22

1. Read the text aloud.
2. **Discussion Questions:**
 - How rewarding would it be for your mentor to send you a letter asking that you come see him quickly? (v.9) *Very much, it would be an indicator of his need for my presence and assistance.* Why would Paul want to see Timothy so urgently? *For encouragement, for fellowship, for assurance...*
 - When have you encountered some lonely times in coaching like Paul in verses 9-12? *Tell us about the loneliest time in your career.*
 - What coaching tools do you have that are as valuable to you as the items in verse 13 are to Paul? *Clipboards, playbooks, whistles, notebooks...*
 - When have you been strongly opposed in your work, like Paul was in verses 14-15? *Opposed by a troublesome parent, an administrator, a sports writer...*
 - Have you ever felt abandoned during hard times in your career? (vv.16-18) *No one to talk to during the long losing streak, staff jumping ship between seasons, family problems...* Where did you find strength to endure and to complete your mission? *In prayer, in your church, with close friends, with your spouse, in Bible reading...*
 - In verses 19-22, Paul sends greetings to a number of his closest friends and associates. Who are some of your coaching associates that have become dear friends and brothers/sisters? *Tell us their names and what makes them special... There could be some of those in this group.*
3. **Weekly Summary:**
 - If your mentor requests your presence, find a way to get there. It could be payday for you.
 - Be ready for some strong opposition to come your way.
 - If you're feeling abandoned, find new strength in friends and faith.
 - Send periodic greetings to your close friends and associates who share in your labors.