INDEX

Introduction .............................................. 3
Put into practice ........................................ 4
Lesson 01 Selected by a great coach ............... 8
Lesson 02 Be part of the winning team .......... 10
Lesson 03 Playing as a team ....................... 15
Lesson 04 Are you a spectator or a player? ... 21
Lesson 05 The dream of the great athletes ... 26
Lesson 06 The discipline of an athlete ......... 31
Lesson 07 A winning team does not fear the big teams 36
Lesson 08 Play to win .............................. 40
Lesson 09 Jesus and the Dream Team .......... 46
Lesson 10 The great athlete of God .......... 52
Lesson 11 Model of general champions .... 56
Lesson 12 Steps to be champions ............... 62
Conclusion .............................................. 66
Bibliography ............................................ 67

INTRODUCTION

Christian lives without discipleship, are lives on the verge of extinction, “MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS” (Matthew 28:19). It is necessary to recognize that you can’t follow Jesus, without being like Him, to follow Him will require a generation that is not content with its life, that each day wants more of God and that do not adjust to this world, but to be transformed by the renewal of their mind, (Romans 12:2). Therefore, discipleship is vital so that new generations can face a culture that day after day separates from God. Evangelism and Mesoamerica Nazarene Youth International have the privilege to present you the following discipleship manual which is designed and directed to children, adolescents and young people who will be invited to participate in the NAZAGOL project which emphasizes evangelism and especially discipleship. Therefore, the lessons to be developed contain both spiritual and sports style; the sports style will serve as a comparison or analogy for the Christian life in which the participants are led to:

Get to count on Jesus as your coach.
Be part of Jesus’ team.
Maintain a disciplined lifestyle to be winners.
Discover the resources to face the great challenges of life.
Maintain a high-performance attitude to win the competition.

The manual, which bears the name of Integral Sports Champions, can be used both inside and outside the churches, who wish to follow the teaching to be great champions. Thus becoming a classic discipleship program, classes and lessons, but at the same time it will be an intentional discipleship program of spiritual formation with which it is intended to guide those involved towards a rich, planned and transformed Christian life. At the same time it will have the ingredient of a dynamic discipleship because it will include relationship, communion, companion, membership and trust. But as a novelty, a combination of the three axes of NVI (evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development) was made to give way to integral discipleship which will provide resources for children, adolescents, and young people to develop in an integral way and discover their own potential and put into practice everything they acquire as benefits for their lives and the lives of others through a service full of love.

Integral and efficient discipleship requires planning, time, and divine power to transform someone into a follower of Christ. Having as a final product a dynamic, helpful, and passionate generation for the Lord.
PUT INTO PRACTICE

WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS BOOK?

The importance of this book is that it will guide you to be not only a good sportsman but it will allow you to be a good Christian, a child of God who practices values and wants to learn from the greatest champion who has never lost a game.

It is a manual or a game plan of evangelism, discipleship and leadership for your integral growth and for your team.

How can we use it?

- As a discipleship program: You can use it when you develop a football or basketball tournament. Prior to the game you can meet with your players and share a lesson and then apply it to their own lives.
- Small groups: in your growth group share a lesson and make them participate in stories, invite them to live in those principles.
- To evangelize you can share it in your meeting groups every week and give the opportunity for others to share a lesson in your group.
- To equip and develop leaders: each meeting can use a player or participant to prepare the lesson and share it. That will make them learn to be in front of people and develop their potential as a leader.

Five steps to an excellent game:

- Meeting will take place once a week and will last an hour, everyone needs to participate in the game.
- Welcome to all participants or players (informal and with a prayer)
- Make a group dynamic, ice breakers (to integrate the group and give a sense of belonging)
- Share the lesson in a creative and innovative dynamic way so that everyone can share their experience. (Every week someone new because we are all leaders)
- Apply it: give time for a feedback, where they find a way to put it into practice in their lives.

Conclusion: at the end of the game ask each one of the team “What do you take with you?” using the lesson learned.
TOPIC: SELECTED BY A GREAT COACH

TEXT TO BE MEMORIZED:
"Come, following," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Mark 1:17.

INTRODUCTION

In the large sports corporations there is a group of people who are known as "talent hunters"; they travel the world looking for young people with many skills and once they are discovered some great contracts and travels then they become stars in the different sports branches. Jesus within a variety of people had to make the decision to select certain men to train them for the greatest mission history.

Have you asked yourself why did Jesus select you’re you be your coach? Analyze the following:

LIVES WITHOUT A COACH

1. The central statement in the book of the Judges is, “since there was no one to guide them, then whoever did what they wanted”; lives without someone who leads us take negative directions with constantly wrong tendencies, on the other hand, life is a routine and the skills are not used to the fullest.

2. In John 15:5 we read “Separated from me nothing can be done”; without Jesus life has no meaning. The disciples before their selection, had lives without objectives and totally ambiguous goals. They were fishermen, but they could do many things, they had great potential.

3. But they lacked a mentor, a guide, a leader who would give them a whole new life and a new direction, and for their good Jesus fixed his eyes on them to make a complete transformation and thus they discovered the talents they had.

Write three things you can mention in which you have failed due to the absence of a coach in your life.


**TALENTS DISCOVERED.**

01. Christ began his recruitment to form his team on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and there he observed four fisherman, estatic men accustomed to heavy tasks, the teacher selected them and invited them to change their activities.

02. God selects you to initiate great changes in your life and to discover all the talents He has endowed you with and put them into action.

**What talents do you have that you have not strengthened yet?**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

**MANY SELECTED FEW CHOSEN.**

01. At the end of the 1980s, a young man from the University of North Carolina who was coming from winning a championship, but for his luck none of the best teams at that time selected him. Being relegated to the last option the coach of the Chicago Bulls selected him declaring: "Let's see what we can do with this boy to shine." And indeed, some time later he became the best of the best, his name is Michael Jordan. Oftentimes he was selected last, but he became one of the first.

02. Jesus had many options also to select those who would train, but he called and selected those that nobody believed in them. In our day God wants to select you to become your coach. The problem is that you have other offers that captivate and trap you.

03. To be the best of the best, it is necessary to obey Jesus’ call to be our coach and take you from victory to victory. He has many options, but now he invites you.

Are you ready to be selected?

**APPLICATION**

The eyes of God are on you, the invitation will come when you are very busy in the roles of life, once you are called, he will become your coach to extract the best of each of the selected. The decision is in each one first to become part of God team and second to receive the training and training we need to be true champions of life. Is Jesus already your coach?

**CONCLUSION**

The best life coach is Jesus, his team is made up of servants and servants who have obeyed the call to be part of the leadership he is leading, for this it is required obedience and the desire to get out of the routine of life.

Are you ready to be selected?
TEXT TO BE MEMORIZED:
"Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it." Mark 16:20.

INTRODUCTION
In the history of the soccer world cups there is a fact that great players like Zico, Platini, Johan Cruyff and others never won a World Cup although they were excellent players, people wonder why? And the answer is that they were not part of a great team, they were part of a team where they had to do everything. The Christian life has its similarity, young people tend to want to be champions in what they propose because they are outside the team of Jesus and therefore do not achieve great victories. On this occasion, taking as a basis the passage in the study, we will approach to how important it is to be part of the winning team of Jesus.

1. LIVES WITHOUT A COACH

01. Three years ago, Jesus had selected his team of 12 men who would change the history and direction of Christianity, they were called from among the different tribes of Israel, and they were able to grow together and mature in themselves to perform the biggest task of their lives.

02. In life we need to surround ourselves with good people who share the same goals and even the same faith, so that as a team we can face the challenges of life.

03. Jesus continues to form great teams with excellent people so that with their help they can face and overcome the obstacles that may arise daily.

What types of groups have you been a part of?
The Bible tells us that Jesus' team was not believing in the accounts of his mentor's resurrection, in such a way that they were admonished by unbelief and hardness of heart. A team with these limitations never goes far.

In Christianity, it is very basic to believe in Jesus, in his power and in him to be very clear that the difficulties of life that arise can be overcome, but a winning mentality is also needed, with the help of Christ.

Thinking about victories is rewarding considering they will not be easy battles, but a winning team is clear, confident, and has faith that "They can do everything in Christ that strengthens them." (Philippians 4:13).

Provide a concept of what you believe FAITH is.

Write the differences between losing and winning mentality.

What kind of training have you received?

A. 

B. 

C. 

The strength and strategies for a team is acquired in training, since it is a time to prepare physically, mentally, and strategically to face sporting challenges. In training defense and attack are always prepared under the guidance of a winning coach.

The disciples of Jesus trained with Him for almost three years, under a harsh regime, with demands, in the Bible we can tell that at the moment arrived when all that acquired knowledge was once again put into practice. Now that team was given an extra power resource. Power to face any adverse situation they would face through out their lives.

The winners train, they acquire resources, tools, but all in order to put it into practice and get ahead (at full speed) in what life or ministry faces. Without practice, training is in vain, coaches train to perform perfect games and in each stage of the game what is trained is practiced.

Mention the areas of your life in which you would like Jesus to train you.
APPLICATION.
The disciples intentionally and voluntarily decided to be part of the great team of Jesus, which implied a not so easy training and a continuous practice of what was learned. They formed a winning team that assured them many victories, sometimes with difficulties, but in the end they became great triumphs. The reflection is: if we are part of the correct team letting ourselves to be trained for the right coach, we will be part of a winning team.

CONCLUSION.
A good part of our youth could be frustrated with life and other things because they have been part of the losing team in which they have lost everything. This has led the current generation not to be strong in faith and guided by defeated and failed teachers. There is only one team, the disciples who have the best coach of their lives and with whom they manage to achieve great victories.

Are you already part of the winning team of Jesus?

PLAYING AS A TEAM
I. WHAT DOES "TEAM" MEAN?

01. The etymology of the word comes from the French *équipe* (kay-pew) which is composed of the transitive active verb *équiper* or "provide everything necessary".

02. A team is a group of two or more people looking to interact, think in a coordinated and cooperative way, united with the same objective.

03. The Christian has a special call to live in community, not to be alone. Nowadays it takes much more to have empathy and to understand others in order to be able to get ahead. A team contains different strengths, not all must have the same function, but they do so in order to jointly contribute and achieve the objective; that is, we are talking about a game like football, for example; they have different positions and at the same time the same goal.

II. BE PART OF A TEAM.

Let's play football, or better known in Latin America as American Football. This game was born more than 100 years ago in the United States of America and is one of the most competitive contact sports, in addition to that, requires discipline, physical training and mental preparation. What is this sport? They are two teams of players trying to take the ball to the touchdown zone of the opposing team. They have four attempts to advance 10 yards (which is 9 meters) and once they reach that goal, they have four more attempts to advance, another 10 yards so they can advance little by little until they reach the touchdown zone. If you are in the defensive team, you must avoid at all costs that the opposing team advances those yards blocking the player, intercepting and/or removing the ball.
Why do we mention this? Well, American football is a simple example to understand what it means to play as a team. In this game, it is impossible to play alone, it would be a player against 11 of the other team. Each of them has a different, special position, where he is supported by the others of his team to advance, either blocking the opponent or receiving a pass.

When we have the opportunity to play as a team, we realize that the discipline of each one is important, the perseverance that we put to achieve the goal is crucial in difficult times, also that if our mind is focused on the things we know how to do and what we should do, it is much easier to communicate with others, share tasks and reach the goal we have in mind. Sometimes, achieving these goals involves a lot of effort from each player, everyone has a special task and the same thing happens in our lives.

Even though everyone has a special purpose given by God, being part of a community allows us to walk in Christ much easier by contributing part of our skills and abilities to others to achieve our goal.

The story we read about Moses in Exodus 17:8–15, shows us the vital meaning of being able to be accompanied, when we are facing a difficult circumstance or a battle, we can rely on more people to get ahead.

Write your concept of:

Teamwork:

Skills:

Aptitudes:

What are the skills and aptitudes you use the most?

I. TOUCHDOWN.

01. Reaching the goal is not easy. In football, it takes more than 60 minutes, in our activities it is about a lifetime. With high and low moments that can propel us or stop us, but in Christ, everything is possible.

02. When together we endure the difficult moments, the victory is very different. It feels really full because it is known that it was an absolute achievement for us.

03. The Christian has not fully experienced the virtue of being able to live with an accompaniment, being guided or strengthened by someone else at the time of a test. The more we seek to be a team, the more we can move forward and go further.

Do you belong to a team? Which one?

Have you experienced having the help (skills/aptitudes) of someone else? How?

Have you been able to give help (skills/aptitudes) to someone else? How?
APPLICATION.
Talking about football can be something very practical to think about or imagine what it means to be part of a team, however, today we could have fallen into individualism and living our lives in solitude, without having to bother others or vice versa. When life is not like that. Being able to advance in a team is much better and we learn from the strengths of others.

CONCLUSION.
God has given us a call to live in community, to love our neighbor, to work together in harmony in order to live a life in Christ, but above all to fight the good fight of faith, as good warriors. As we say to our players in the field, because, as Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, "Two are worth more than one, because they have better remuneration for their work" and together they receive the prize; not a medal but an incorruptible crown.

04
ARE YOU A SPECTATOR OR A PLAYER?
TEXT TO BE MEMORIZED:
"Let's get up and build! So they put forth their hands for good." Nehemiah 2:20.

INTRODUCTION
There are many people who are dedicated only to make observations, statements, strong criticism and even say "I would have done this or that," some are journalists, other fans and many viewers. The incredible thing is that a good percentage of the people who never played or participated in any sport, not even in their schools or in their schools. But, they are experts according to them and believe that they have all the freedom that without playing are part of a team or sport.

We could compare Christianity with a sport where few are involved playing the game of their lives every day, while many only observe and maintain critical attitudes, negative, closed and without actions. They follow a saying that says: "It is better to see the ball from the fence." Jesus continues to call us to be part of his team, but there is a lot of resistance, because we prefer to be Christians from far away without any commitment.

Of the passage in study we can find THREE TRUTHS that help to stop being spectators and to start being players.

FIRST TRUTH
Recognize the conditions in which you are.

1. Conditions of the town:
   - Walls and houses demolished.
   - Discouraged, sad, without vision.
   - Everything was a routine.

2. Conditions of the spectators:
   - They are experts.
   - They are observers.
   - They lack passion.

3. Conditions of the builders:
   - They are ready to build.
   - They have a vision.
   - They have passion.

SECOND TRUTH
God always has a strategy to help you.

1. Nehemiah is the instrument of God.
   - He brought a strategy, resources and a call to the people.
   - The people listen to the resource of God and make the decision to "get up, build and strive."
   - They got involved in the work, they stopped being spectators.

God, as the great strategist, uses the necessary resources to help us leave the position of spectator. So he wants us to be part of his winning team, but for that we must be inside and not outside.
What means has God been using to make you part of his team?

THIRD TRUTH.
God accompanies his players.

1. But I answered them.

- God would prosper them, they would rise and build.
- Now Judah was a participant, they moved from the stands to the field.
- Realize that as a spectator you miss the best moments with God and his blessings.

If you would be willing to leave your seat in the stadium, to enter the field and be a player, in which position of the team would you like to be, rather in which area you would like to develop a ministry to serve?

APPLICATION.
The spectator will criticize, judge and murmur. He does not like to see that players are doing things right. Therefore, they feel comfortable even though they have not realized that their lives are static since a long time ago. God will use something amazing to change their attitudes and make them part of the team.

CONCLUSION.
The player should be careful not to be distracted by the attitudes or comments of the spectator since he would run the risk of becoming one of those. The player enjoys the triumph of God and that is the great difference with the spectator; passion, commitment, and love is very great for the player and God makes him a winner every day. Dare this day to change places and enjoy the great game.
THE DREAM OF THE GREAT ATHLETES

INTRODUCTION
In baseball there is an extraordinary game that they call the Perfect Game. A victory achieved by a pitcher in 9 innings in which he faced the minimum of possible batters (27) and in which none of them managed to reach base under any circumstance. 27 batters and 27 consecutive outs. The pitcher who achieves this, gets his story Day and immortalizes himself goes down in history for his heroic game.

In 2009, we had the opportunity to witness one of the most shocking baseball games of our lives, as it was an almost perfect game and nothing more and nothing less than for a youth of the NYI of my local church. This game consists of no hit and runs; it was news for the country because a Salvadoran had made history as a pitcher of the first division baseball team.

The young people of the NYI were in the stadium giving cheers and supporting him so that he fulfilled his dream of being a great baseball player, a goal that had been set since he was 7 years old.

After that game he continued to grow, and in a few months he was discovered by a team from the Major League Baseball of the United States to be hired and prepared to play abroad traveling and training in a professional team. This youth fulfilled his dream of playing for a big baseball team.

Based on this premise, I would like to ask you: Have you made your dreams come true? Do you feel happy about where you are and what you have achieved to this day? To fulfill your dreams of being a baseball winner or any sport you must take into account the three pieces of advice the apostle Paul gives us in the first letter of the Corinthians in which he gives us a clear and defined goal.
**TOP NO. 1: RUN TO WIN.**

All your efforts in life have to be to win and not just participate to participate, to strive means to give a little more of your strength or normal ability, there are many things that athletes would like to do, like having fun with their friends at parties, or eat and drink what they want, however, they sacrifice themselves, because they have the desire to win the prize and know that these things could limit their chance to reach victory.

This is how in the Christian life many times the influence of other friends who are not focused can make you lose your vision and relegate it to the background, which would make you lose your dream. Every athlete who won in ancient times, was given a laurel crown, but in the kingdom of God they will receive an incorruptible crown.

**TOP NO. 2: HAVE DISCIPLINE.**

The athletes have to follow a rigorous discipline and form their character to carry out their goals; to win in the competition, this is related to physical exercise, sleep well, eat properly, and above all, take care of their body.

Athletes know that exercise and discipline produce pain and that many times they do it until their tears roll, however, they do not stop training or preparing, because the bigger the test, the bigger the victory.

So in Christian life, when we live in faith we must abstain from sin and from everything that distances us from God or contaminates us and does not allow us to grow in the image of God.

Sins like alcoholism, drugs, gluttony, pride, and sexual debauchery have caused many athletes to lose their sleep and be disqualified.

**TOP NO. 3: FIGHT WITH PURPOSE.**

All athletes are prepared with a purpose: To fulfill their dream and be the best in their discipline and to win you need to have a clear purpose.

Likewise, Christians have to have a plan in terms of growing in faith and cultivating their devotional life through reading the scriptures, because they make you grow in the knowledge of the Lord and for this you have to do four important things:

- Read it
- Meditate it
- Practice it
- Share it

Your time of prayer and the practices of all the spiritual disciplines and the communion with the brothers and sisters in the church make you grow in the image and likeness of Christ.
APPLICATION.
When you put effort, discipline and character into practice, you can achieve your goals.
What are you willing to do to achieve your dreams?
What are the difficulties you face for which you are not making progress?
Do not throw in the towel and move on.

CONCLUSION.
When we learn to trust in God, all our dreams can be fulfilled, even those that seem impossible and this has two important elements: faith in God, but also the effort of each athlete to follow his dreams.
You can say this day you can do everything in Christ that strengthens you, and start the path that will take you to raise the crown of triumph and remember never giving back even to take momentum, and do not throw in the towel, but keep moving forward.
TEXT TO BE REMEMBERED:
"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly." 1 Timothy 4:1.

INTRODUCTION
The Olympics is one of the largest sporting events in the world, for four years athletes get prepared with the most rigorous training standards to win the gold medal. Michael Phelps has been the gold medalist of gold medals in the field of swimming. In his biographical information it is narrated that since he was a child he underwent a strong training for which he had to abstain from many things of his time and that discipline saved him so that during four Olympics he could reach the maximum award. The apostle Paul uses the metaphor of the athlete to teach Christians of all times that in the Christian life you will have to take the resources of an athlete to develop a solid Christianity. Under the same Pauline basis, we will learn about these aspects of an athlete.

I. FIRST ASPECT. WHO IS AN ATHLETE?
01. The etymology of the word athlete is important to know; athlete (who competes for a prize, competition, effort) is a person who will give everything to compete and win.

02. A Christian must be an athlete in all areas of his life, he must be competitive for society, he will try to compete according to the demands of culture and with the mindset of reach victory.

03. Church is the mecca of great athletes, the problem is that some percentage of believers do not keep a life standard and very soon they abandon the meeting place, the team, the training, and their trainer. Starting a new life with many difficulties and taste defeat.

04. The Christian athlete will make his best effort to be integral in his philosophy of life, with the main purpose to keep walking on the right path of Christian life, and reaching the goal as a result.

II. SECOND ASPECT. THE DISCIPLINED LIFE OF AN ATHLETE

01. Paul comments that a good athlete competes in a legitimate way, this means under the rules that are given previously, during the whole process of training. If a Christian decides to compete in an illegitimate way, that is to say without obeying the rules, he will hardly reach the goals he or she proposes.

02. The disciplined life for the athlete disciple is very important, just as the athlete has to lead a life with good habits that will allow the care of his body, mind and spirit to have all the resources to be able to compete.

03. The disciplined life is fostered and preserved through spiritual formation, where Christians practice a series of spiritual disciplines that, when carried out, can count on great spiritual resources to compete in the Christian race in a legitimate way. Some disciplines are: prayer, biblical reading, fasting, meditation, congregation, retreat. It is required that gradually they practiced until they become a habit of life.

04. Maintaining a lifestyle with spiritual disciplines helps to shape the spiritual life of the Christian disciple, as it will provide a basis for not wavering in the hardness of competition.

Write the following:
Write your concept of Spiritual Formation.
Spiritual disciplines.

Disciplines that you practice to this day.

III. THIRD ASPECT. THE PERSISTENCE AND PERSEVERANCE OF THE ATHLETE.

01. Jesus told those who wanted to follow him and other ones he called “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). In order not to fall into this serious error, the Christian athlete needs persistence which is the existence and duration of an activity for a long period of time, in addition to perseverance which is the action and effect to keep constant in a life project, even in adverse situations.

02. It is where we see the mark of the spiritual disciplines in the life of the disciple, Paul calls “to fight”, and that is, to be a part of and to be in the competition no matter what happens. When the athlete starts the competition for which he has trained, nothing and nobody stops him and drives him as the Scriptures say: “I continue to the goal, to the prize of the supreme calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

03. The two resources in question can be acquired, as long as the athlete strives to reach them and make them part of their life, especially by requesting them from the Great Teacher Jesus. It is worthwhile to submit to disciplined life, as this way the athlete gets the musculature and endurance which are essential to the life of competition of every athlete disciple.

In what aspects of life are you persistent?

A.

B.

C.
A WINNING TEAM DOES NOT FEAR BIG TEAMS

TOPIC: A WINNING TEAM DOES NOT FEAR BIG TEAMS.

TEXT TO BE MEMORIZED:
"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

INTRODUCTION
On one occasion, a commentator criticized a soccer player of a recognized team worldwide, telling him that people said his team only beat "small" teams, to which the player responded smiling: "So is, we always beat small teams because we are the greatest!"

A winning team does not necessarily have to be a big team, but a team that is very clear about the goal of going to the field: going to win... and the great thing is that when a team comes out to win; always, sooner or later it will end up being a great team. That's what Joshua and Caleb had in mind. They never came out for a draw or for a loss; they knew that the fact of going to the battlefield is done with a clear goal: Get the victory.

In life we face great teams every day: a difficult subject in school or university, an ineffective job search, a hostile environment at work, a conflictive neighborhood, a disintegrated home, a struggle to obtain resources to continue studying, etc. However, in order to not be afraid of anything apparently great that we could face, we need to learn certain attitudes that these winning guys teach us.

1. HAVE A VISIONARY MIND AND FULL OF FAITH.
The vision is a look at your future, and to know that God is in control of what will happen in your future (Isaiah 12:2, Jeremiah 31:13).

Take two minutes for this: Close your eyes and think about everything your heart desires intensely in this moment... God is not unaware of our needs and He knows that we are suffering because we do not see the solution to some things in our life. However, need does not move the hand of God but Faith.
Faith is the engine of a winning person (14:7). Joshua and Caleb get prepared in faith to obtain the blessing of God, the Bible says that they went to “Recognize the land” and after seeing that paradise they did not return the same to the camp. They had already seen what God had promised them, they knew it was only a matter of time before they could begin to enjoy it. His faith was greater than the fear of going to battle.

Have you ever received a promise from God? What to do when time passes and we do not see the fulfillment of God’s promises in our life? How to put our faith in God even though we have adverse circumstances?

The key to not fear, but to be successful in front of great teams is to depend on God (14:9).

Joshua and Caleb knew that victory depended on one condition: “If Jehovah is pleased with us” that sounds incredible! When someone understands that we can only be completely victorious through our Almighty God. In fact, in John 15:5 Jesus was emphatic in saying that away from Him we can do nothing.

What circumstances or struggles do you want to put in the hands of God this day? Mention some either for yourself or to share with the group:

3. Never doubt that the winner is you!

I believe that Joshua and Caleb never thought that they could lose, that thought never crossed their minds. They were sure that if Jehovah was with them, there was no reason to fear anyone... that’s right, nobody!

- Every time you face a big team... aim for the highest, because there is no other way to aim!

There is a tent that makes me believe with all my strength that the dreams God has put in my mind are to live them. God promises, “Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.” (Psalm 2:8). God has created us to fulfill his own divine purposes which are sublime and much greater than we can imagine. However, nowadays many cut short the potential that God has placed in them and do not seek to obtain the promises of God for their lives; but they prefer to live as the average, without totally surrendering to God or enjoying a victorious life either. They know that in God we get victory in everything, but prefer to get only crumbs of what God wants to do in their lives, what a mediocre way to live!
APPLICATION.
Not being afraid of the great teams that you face daily in your life is only achieved through your dependence on God, the certainty in your heart that with Him you can get everything you want, as it says in Psalm 38:4 “May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.”

CONCLUSION.
Only God can cast out all fear of our life, only his love and peace can give us the confidence to move forward. Jesus said: “In the world you will have affliction, but trust me I have overcome the world”. Trust in your promise, depend on Him and walk in faith every day.
TEXT TO BE MEMORIZED:

“Everyone who competes in the games enters into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” 1 Corinthians 9:25

INTRODUCTION

Derek Ramola was the favorite 400 meters athlete at the 1999 Olympics in Barcelona. He started the competition normally, but missing 250 meters suffered an injury to his tendon, collapsed on the track with much pain, the rest of competitors began to advance. In spite of pain, he got up and limped into the race, suddenly someone from the crowd approached and took him by the arm, and together they reached the finish line. He did not get the gold medal, but finished the 400 meter race.

The example described allows us to think that a place is not so important but to end even with many difficulties, this is Christianity. Paul uses the metaphor of the Greek games comparing the athletic race with the race of the Christian life, and invites us to decide to be a Christian we must run with a goal, reach the end and get the prize whatever happens.

On this occasion an approach to the Christian race will be made using a sports triangle.

1. SIDE: HAVE THE SECURITY THAT WE ARE IN THE RIGHT RACE.

01. Paul says “they all run”, many disciples begin the race, but after some time they realize that it is easy and the time comes when they take other options, then they realize that they are no longer in the correct competition.

02. The disciple must be sure that it is a long race, there are obstacles, it takes effort, a winning mentality, he must like it, and especially must have the enthusiasm to finish it, knowing that we are in the correct race helps to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the runner which allows us to know what the competition is worth.

03. Collaterally, many competitions will be presented, which can lead us away or withdraw from the Christian life and think that we are in competition when in practice we are no longer in the race, and as many we run but in the wrong direction.

04. Therefore we need to stop and reassess if we really find ourselves in the right race that will lead us to eternal life. Jesus said “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.” But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14).

What different options to Christian life have been a presented in your life?

Why do you consider you are in the Christian race?

2ND SIDE: COMPETING IN THE RACE TO BE A WINNER.

01. Following the Pauline thoughts “only one takes the prize, so run in such a way as to obtain it.” It is the consistency, in Christian life to be part of the winners in order to do everything possible with the help of the Holy Spirit to finish and obtain victory.

02. The Christian career has been designed by God as a channel to reach the fullness of a relationship with Him and that will have as a reward living for all eternity with the Lord. His design includes difficulties, but at the same time growth, maturity, and many victories before the final triumph.

03. The emphasis “run to win, never lose”, will be at the beginning of the competition where the foundations, values, and principles to have resources on the trip will be established. But also with a clear way of thinking that with Jesus in the race “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us”. (Romans 8:37)

04. “To win is to win” said a competitor of Formula 1, when another competitor told him when he came in second place “I almost won you”. In the cycles of life we compete to succeed in academics, work, family, marriage, and therefore in Christianity. Our great designer did not create his maximum creation to be a loser or defeated in all conditions, we are designed so that we become champions in all areas of life.

An immortalized and celebrated phrase of Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England in the Second World War was “WITHOUT SACRIFICE THERE IS NO VICTORY”.

42
What did you have to leave to follow Jesus?

1. 
2. 
3. 

3rd Side. Every effort in the race will have its price.

01. According to verse 25 a great effort is described by those who compete for something ephemeral and those who run for the perishable. The prizes that the running disciples obtain and will obtain are priceless. For that reason, it is difficult to earn them, so that they are valued and appreciated. Because of that God continues inviting to be part of his career since the prize that He will give is very great.

02. Every effort has its reward, in the Gospels we read that the disciples left everything to follow Jesus and, on a certain occasion Peter, asked his teacher what he would receive for having left everything, Jesus answered him “you will receive much more in this time, and in the next century, eternal life.” We should not have any doubt, God will reward his children for all the effort given.

03. But Jesus would expect that before thinking and wanting for the crown we will have the following aspects that will help us to advance each day in the race, they are: passion, commitment, love for God, patience, consecration, service, uncomformity, strength, and courage. Which become great allies during the competition.

With Christ and the resources previously mentioned we will not have any doubt, that we will be in the race and we will reach the goal, so that God will give us the crown that we want. Paul in the end of his life and ministry said “I have finished the race, I have kept the faith, now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

Mention some prizes that God has given you for having followed Him?

1. 
2. 
3. 

APPLICATION.

We have a great career in which we are called to reach the end, having clear that things will not be easy, but at the same time we are called to be unique, not of the bunch of those who do not know how to direct their lives, competing just to compete and striving for prizes that before God are not relevant. It is necessary to recognize that we are going to run under two premises: Reach the goal and take the prize.

CONCLUSION.

Every effort is rewarded as long as our competition is correct and in a clean manner. The great heroes of the Bible were very clear of these two things, which allowed them to enjoy the race, reach the goal and wait for the great award on that day when Jesus awards his sons and daughters.
TEXT TO BE MEMORIZED:
"So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him." Luke 5:11

INTRODUCTION
In the 1992 Olympic Games that took place in Barcelona, the team of the United States was nicknamed "the Dream Team" because the best basketball players of the NBA were in the national team. Can you imagine the best NBA players playing together? Wow! That was amazing, to see Larry Bird with Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson, or Karl Malone with Scottie Pippen and Karl Malone who was the best player of the Olympics. This team won all the games until crowned champion and is remembered as the best dream team that a coach can have. Can you imagine the pride and satisfaction that team coach Chuck Daly had?

How do you think JESUS felt about the team he had formed? The best paradigm of a leader who formed a team is Jesus because he formed a team of twelve to carry the gospel, although this was not a dream team, they fulfilled the mission that God had entrusted. Have you seen in Scripture and in historical books what he says about Peter, John, Paul? Sinful men but who were transformed by the Holy Spirit and who received the power of God to achieve their goal.

God's dream was to train these team members to fulfill his plan of salvation and that is why he called them, trained them and set them as his disciples. The NIV wants to work as a team to fulfill the great commission and win the new generation for God's kingdom.
WHY TEAMS AND NOT ONLY PEOPLE?

01. Because teams involve more people and provide more resources and ideas than a single person. In the youth ministry there are no lone rangers, much less the Rambo (weapons are forbidden... although sometimes we would like to use them with some young people).

02. Teams enhance the leader’s level, develop it, and at the same time generate other leaders. A good team work provides the opportunity for the leader to become a coach of leaders.

03. The teams provide multiple perspectives on how to meet a need or achieve a goal, since different alternatives are tried.

04. The teams share the credits for the victories and the responsibilities for the defeats; and of course, they give the glory to God.

05. Teams help leaders to keep responsibility for reaching goals.

06. Teams can simply do more than one person alone, the results are maximized.

HOW DO WE INTEGRATE THE TEAM?

All teamwork requires diligence and effort on leader’s behalf. To propose a goal and reach it superficially, it is as a task that must be done, is the easiest part. To achieve that a person in soul, mind, strength, and spirit lives by that goal, is something very different.

The youth leader must seek unity of purpose in his work team because the goal he pursues is life itself. His team is made up of people who minister other people, and the goal is a full life, a life that transcends to eternity (Colossians 1:28).

That is why the responsibility and the challenge are greater, and the task must be conscious, careful, and above all, pastoral. It is required that the leader really knows the lives of the young people on his team with whom he deals, the character that it is expected to develop in them and the purpose of the ministry as part of the body of Christ.

IN THE FIRST PLACE: YOU MUST FORM A TEAM WITH THE CONVICTION THAT YOU NEEDONE.

You need to be aware that the goals set can be achieved by the gifts, knowledge, skills, and abilities of the different people that compose the team. Forming up and directing a team is not easy. A fundamental element is to be aware that it is necessary to go through several phases before having really “integrated” the ministerial team.

Take into account the following principles:

01. True team trainers do not care so much about the size of the task they must perform, rather, they see an opportunity to develop the potential of their team.

02. Consider the resources you have. No matter how skilled you are in getting the job done, you will not be able to make progress if you do not have the resources at the right time and place.

03. Try to have the right members. You can have the vision, have a strategic plan, have all the resources, or be a formidable leader, but if you do not have the right people you will go nowhere. Of course, having the right people implies a process, it’s hard to find those good teammates!

SECOND: AS A COACH YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING.

Jesus faced disappointment, frustration, and even denial and abandonment during the integration of your team you will find pleasant experiences and others not so much, some will be difficult to face and others you will wish that they do not end; so prepare yourself to face both types of situations.

However, if you want to increase your probabilities of experiencing good things, keep in mind the following:

01. Each member of the team must take the place where they can give their best.

02. When the right member is in the right place, his attitude will be correct.

03. People must be located in the position that maximizes and develops their talents, skills and experiences.

04. When the person does the work that knows how to do the whole team wins.

05. On the other hand, the risk of facing unpleasant situations is extenuated when a member of the team plays in the wrong position.
These are some of the symptoms that will give evidence of this reality:

01. The team’s morale is low because its full capacity is not being developed.
02. Players feel compelled to play in a strange position that prevents them from developing.
03. People lose interest because they know that their skills are being wasted.

THIRD: YOU MUST KNOW HOW TO PLAY WITH THE DREAM TEAM.

Based on the different scenarios we can experience in the ministry, a basic premise of teamwork is to place people in the perfect position.

Next, I share four steps that will help you make an adequate assignment of functions in your ministerial team.

01. Knows perfectly the ____________________ mission, vision, and strategic objectives, the goal and the possible way forward to make the group mature and fulfill its purpose
02. Knows the ____________________ in which the team is now as well as the attention it requires to move forward.
03. Knows the ____________________. Your commitment to God, your knowledge, your experience, your family and social background, your abilities, your temperament, your attitudes, your level of passion for ministry, the ability to motivate others, the emotional strength, and the potential of the person.
04. Create action scenarios in which the members of your team feel comfortable serving but at the same time be challenged to take on new challenges.

APPLICATION.

Can you give 5 reasons why you should work as a team? Make a dynamic of how you exemplify teamwork.

CONCLUSION.

The essence of leadership lies in the ability to inspire others to work together as a team, to strive to achieve a common goal. When you realize that other people can be actively involved in the tasks of the ministry and collaborate in the fulfillment of the group’s purpose, it means that you have taken a big step in your development as a team leader.
10
THE GREAT ATHLETES OF GOD

TOPIC: THE GREAT ATHLETES OF GOD.

TEXT TO BE MEMORIZED:
“Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules.” 2 Timothy 2:5

INTRODUCTION
In these last two decades in several disciplines there are many athletes who have been disqualified from their triumphs for not having participated or competed legitimately. As athletes of the Lord we must remove worldly insecurity and submit ourselves to rigorous discipline. As athletes, we must train hard and submit to the rules. The writer of the Hebrews compares the Christian life with a Christian race and relates the runner or athlete stating that somebody is an athlete to win a prize and to have a reward (Acts 20:24).

One of the profound goals of the Bible is to give us answers to the questions we ask ourselves about our purpose in life. Among the things that God allows is that we come to earth as an athlete, and then return to heaven to claim crowns, prizes, etc. A person who does things just to do them, is because he knows that he will not get a reward, that is why we must do everything with excellence, because everything we do on earth, good or bad, will have an effect in eternity.

Next, we will observe 3 important Qualities of the Christian as an athlete, which could lead him to obtain his crown by fighting legitimately:

1. THE ATHLETE GETS RID OF WEIGHT, VERSE 1 PART A
Many times we have the strength to run, but we get together with people who are very busy and they can stop us in the race. What prevents us from running? What things should we get rid of?

- The weight of sin, which must be confessed.
- Old sins that have already been forgiven.
- The works of darkness.
- The burden of the past.
2. THE ATHLETE RUNS WITH DISCIPLINE. VERSE 1: PART 1

An athlete must have discipline to run the race with joy. Discipline implies effort and sacrifice, but the reward it brings is valuable.

There are many things that we must discipline in us:

01. Our emotions 03. Our habits
02. Our language 04. Our temperament

With your words write:

What is discipline?

What is a habit?

3. YOUR ATTITUDE IS WITH GOALS, PUT YOUR EYES ON JESUS. VERSE 2

The athlete exercises in having an attitude of following towards the goal. He forgets the failures of the past, and keeps going forward every day until he reaches the goal and is rewarded.

If while we run we fall, then we get up and move on. Our attitude must be to always move forward, towards the goal.

You must have goals and follow them every day and reach them.

The goal and reward is to be with Jesus forever at the end of the race.

What goals do you want to achieve?

APPLICATION

The race is for everyone, but the athlete should gather the qualities addressed, in order to stay, persevere, and finish. The effort is gigantic, but it is worth trying, others achieved it and are known as the heroes of the faith, let’s accompany them and achieve victory.

CONCLUSION

Three are the suggestions to run successfully: get rid of the weight, run with patience, and put your eyes on Jesus. There is no doubt that Christ will run beside us and help us to reach the goal so that in a near day, He will reward us and put us a crown for all the effort made.
INTRODUCTION
In soccer, one of the most practiced activities in the world and also in all high-performance sports, we find many models of champions who love what they do so much, who develop a discipline that resembles the requirement of Christian life. But it's not just about being the best footballer and magically I'll become a star player in the football universe. It all depends on what our team, our coach, and our support people say about me and how I develop a discipline that helps me to grow in the team.

Each winner of the “Balón d’Or”, which is the highest award for a footballer, has a history of efforts, failures, injuries, love, and faith exactly as it could happen in the Christian life, when Christ is recognized and accepted in the heart and from there, develop that love and discipline to achieve day by day, the entire sanctification.

But just as the athlete needs the support of a team that has the same discipline and equal abilities, the Christian needs the help of his congregation (church) to travel that hard road to salvation. Although apostle Paul says in 1 Timothy 4:8: “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come”, which makes us see how much it is better to have the discipline of Christ, to get to God (John 14:18), with which we will obtain eternal life.

TEXT TO BE MEMORIZED:
“Thou hast fought the good fight, thou hast finished the race, thou hast kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7
A TRUE CHAMPION.

A. There are four basic concepts that define the life of a true champion:
1. The discipline 2. The courage 3. The faith 4. The love

B. If we take into account that a life full of triumphs, fame and money, represent the best attractions for Satan to try to convince people that the things of the world are the best delights of life, the champions are the best candidates to be tempted so that these winners become an example for the world of baseness and idolatry. Before these temptations many champions have succumbed, and in the end they finish in the most complete misery.

C. To resist this temptation the true champions and the born-again Christians need discipline to stay constant and not to fall, courage to face any challenge, faith to fight and not to fear failure and love to be humble in victory, help the fallen, and be great in defeat. Only this way we can survive and not fall into the economic, human, and spiritual misery into which many of them fall, who mistakenly believed that they had already achieved everything. Then it was not worth struggle and effort.

1. How is the spiritual development of Christians strengthened?

2. What should be the daily training in the life of a Christian?

3. Does God hate the fame and the money of the champions?
THE EXEMPLARY LIFE OF THE CHAMPIONS.

A. Who will want to copy the effort and discipline of a champion, if that means struggle, pain and tears? Only another champion, because within this perspective, not everybody will want to be true champions, or the best Christians.

B. The word of God says in Hebrews 12:11-12: “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.” This means that this discipline will receive a great reward in the end.

C. Like an athlete who achieves the highest honors through an iron discipline, the Christian must strive, fight, and even suffer within this discipline, that in a future will lead him to eternal life.

APPLICATION.

Hebrews 12:5-6 says, “And have you completely forgotten the word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chases everyone he accepts as his son.”

As children of God, as well as those who practice sports, we cannot deviate from discipline in any way, because this is the greatest requirement to achieve maximum performance in the work of Jesus Christ and in the case of great athletes achieving the best marks and medals. An athlete has to submit to the command of the coach without asking why and for what. The Christian must obey the Word of God, knowing that these commands entail “reprimands and lashes,” because in both cases, the teacher seeks the education of the student or disciple.

CONCLUSION.

We have found in the life of a champion, the model of demand that means to keep constant struggle to achieve the reward that God has prepared for all of us who happily finish the race and obtain the crown of life.

The life of a Christian is similar to that of a great sportsman, who to reach the podium had to cling to a dream, an objective, a hope, and a great love. This means a total change of life, affronts, dispensation, vituperation, and multiple injuries. The price paid was worth it.

But in the end, the good Christian can say: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day as not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)
TOPIC: STEPS TO BE CHAMPIONS.


TEXT TO BE MEMORIZED:
“Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.” Daniel 3:28.

INTRODUCTION
The arrival in Babylon of these champions changed abruptly into a different culture of slaves to work in the court of the king. That would take them to the greatest test of their lives and only with an attitude of champions would be victorious.

The scenarios have changed and even the characters, but the circumstances are repeated daily. God wants to raise a generation of champions who do not easily give in to the pressures of the context, who present battles, who trust in Him and win victories with His help. Some are achieving it, others have not taken off yet, and a good percentage has been released. Now we have a giant panorama in terms of sports, but the “Champions League” is the most watched European tournament and is that its name is “Champions League,” which brings together the winning clubs of all European leagues; that is, it is the best of the best. Everyone participates, but only one becomes the champion of champions and for that they prepare each day, but above all, with the mentality that they will be winners.

From the very first day we will learn some KEY STEPS to develop the lives of champions...
03. STEP VI.8. Have God in our lives.
04. STEP VI.9. Possess a winner mentality.
05. STEP VI.10. Face the obstacles that arise.
06. STEP VI.11. Be sure that God will accompany us in the pressures of life.
07. STEP VI.12. Give the glory to God.

Have you mentioned some aspects that have not allowed you to be a champion?

If you were hired to be a coach of a certain sport, what would you change in the members to make them have a mentality of champions?

The plans that have been presented can be acquired over time if we can develop the following quadrilateral:

FINANCE:
IDENTITY
CONNECTION
SPIRITUALITY

This is the training of a champion in developing and growing his quadrilateral so that when difficulties arise, there is a whole internal structure to resist, fight and win.

In what areas of life would you like to be a champion?

APPLICATION.
A champion is tested at the time of the difficulties and considering how triumphant he comes out, then he will be considered a winner. It will not be easy, but Jesus accompanies his children. The invitation is to preventively prepare for difficult times; therefore, it is necessary to start the construction of the quadrilateral at not be surprised by the fire of the test.

CONCLUSION.
The champions are formed from the difficulties, but in each one of them lie steps that Daniel’s three followed must be followed, and just like them, God will accompany them and give the victories so that their name will be exalted among the human beings.
GENERAL CONCLUSION:
The NyA of the Neos America region want to thank God for allowing us to present today this valuable resource in order to equip and develop you as a leader, so that you can guide your adolescents and young people in learning values and biblical principles that will help you to form high-performance teams and first-level leadership.

We will use sport as a way to take the new generation to encounter Jesus and together we will learn that we must minister the human being in an integral way in its five dimensions: intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual. In the present resource we will take you to the field where we will play with you but we will also learn to reflect and to evolve in our way of thinking because that is how our way of living will change. Romans 12:1-2

BIBLIOGRAPHY


We are very grateful to our writers for being part of this project, for sharing their experience, and for motivating the athletes through their tales in this book to follow the goal to the ultimate call in Jesus.

Thank you all for investing in the kingdom of God, and from God you will receive the reward.

Writers:
Luis Flores
Luis Rios
Alfredo Pérez
Milton Gay

Editors and Graphics:
Odily Diaz
Gladys Vivas
Laura Campos
Graciela Campos
Mathew Cajas
Jerson Chupina

Images from:
freepik.com
unsplash.com

Nazareth Team for your donations and help in printing:
Jason Courtney
Cristian Juarez

NYI Regional Coordinator:
Milton Gay
February, 2023