HEAD COACH

To train your students to become CHAMPIONS

it will hurt.

It will take time.

It will require willpower.



It requires sacrifice.

You will need to push yourself to the max.

There will be temptation.

But I promise you this, when you reach your goal,

IT WILL HAVE BEEN WORTH IT.

"Everyone who competes in the games goes 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

DEAR TEACHERS,



We pray that God blesses each one of you as you serve Him and minister to children around the world. You are making a difference, and changing lives for eternity!

We have a surprise for you. You may think you signed up to be a Sunday school teacher, but your job description has now changed to COACH! That is right, this year we will be studying the Bible with a boxing theme and we hope to have some fun with sports. Beloved teacher, start right now! Be a coach instead of a teacher, and it will help inspire you to care deeply about each student in your class, and their progress as they strive to become a champion.

We will be studying the fruit of the Spirit. However, we are not only looking at the fruit, but also at the many sins of our flesh that fight against the fruit of the Spirit. Your goal is to help your students become champions. To do this, they need to not only memorize the memory verses and learn the Bible stories, but they also need to put the fruit of the Spirit into action in their everyday lives. This is a much harder challenge for you as coaches.

Using the boxing theme, when your students are in your Sunday school class, let us imagine that they are in training. They are working out, and learning more about God and learning how to fight against sin. Your church therefore, is the training center.

When your students are out in the world, they are actually "In the ring!" This is where they will actually fight against their own sinful desires. Their homes and schools, therefore, are the actual competitions and boxing matches. This is because at church, we are all good at pretending and giving the right answers. Please do not let any child think he has won a match because of his memorization or learning at church. That is training. The real fight is in their life. They can win matches if they put into practice the lessons during the week.

Your final job as their coach is to reward them and encourage them when they succeed. Prepare some awards to be able to hand out. Give them a hug or a special shout of encouragement for each "punch," round, or match won. The behavior you reward will be the behavior you receive as your students strive to please you, their coach.

We hope you can have a good time dressing as a coach, decorating your class as a sports training center, and having some fun award ceremonies. Success in living the fruit of the Spirit will come, just as it does in sports, to those who are willing to work harder than anyone else. You CAN inspire your students to work hard and become champions. Just believe in them when no one else does, and watch God do miracles in their lives!

May our Lord God inspire you, as you take on this challenge of coaching your students in the fruit of the Spirit. We pray you break all limitations put on Sunday school teachers, and become a real coach in the lives of your students.

www.ChildrenAreImportant.com – Children's ministry resources, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum for churches and teachers.

COACHES



SMALL GROUPS

Create small groups of 3-7 children. Each small group needs a coach. The coaches do not need to attend class every week, but need to check in with their students or "athletes" each week. Assign one of your main leaders to be the head coach and to organize and inspire all the coaches.

Divide your class into small groups to help your students actually do the assignments during the week. Most Sunday school programs are at church, and do not require homework during the week. However, your students cannot "knockout" sin in their lives by learning about it. They must actually get "In the ring" and fight the actual sin that they face during the week. Honestly, without someone checking up on them, this will be almost impossible to do. Please do not "trust their word" and accept when students say they did an assignment. If you become lax about this program, you will be training your students to tell you lies. However, just imagine with me that if you can actually coach your students, and track that they are doing the homework, you will see real change in their lives. In just 1 year, you can turn their lives around! Your students will not be memorizing the fruit of the Spirit, but will be actually learning to LIVE it!



RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COACHES

COACH:

- Coach 3-5 children.
- Meet with students for 5 minutes before and after class each week to discuss assignment and encourage them to become champions.
- Call/text students weekly to remind them of the assignment. (Suggested=Tuesday)
- Call/text students a second time weekly to get report of assignment done. (Suggested=Friday)
- Keep track of assignments done for children in small group and report to head coach weekly.

HEAD COACH:

- Meet with all the coaches for 5 minutes before class each week to discuss assignment and encourage them to coach faithfully their students.
- Call/text coaches weekly to remind them of the assignment. (Suggested=Tuesday)
- Call/text coaches a second time weekly to get report of assignments done. (Suggested=Friday)
- Keep track of assignments done for all students.
- Host monthly inspirational meetings for coaches and their families.



RECRUITING

It may sound like a challenge to recruit more leaders so that you have enough coaches for small groups. However, this does not need to be that difficult. Here are some ideas to make finding coaches EASY:

- Ask coaches to serve for only 1 month. Each month covers one fruit of the Spirit. When asking adults for their commitment, if you only are asking for 1 month, many will be more willing to sign up. After the first month, if you make it easy and fun, they will want to sign up again!
- Allow coaches to attend church as normal, but arrive at church 10 minutes early to meet with their students. Your coaches could attend your Sunday school class only once during the month, and the other weeks attend church as normal with the adults.
- Text students instead of calling. Help your coaches set up automatic texts for the whole month, so that they can easily be in contact with their students. Do not forget that instead of traditional calling, you can also use Facebook accounts, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.

www.ChildrenAreImportant.com – Children's ministry resources, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum for churches and teachers.



- Create a place at church for coaches to store a few items. In order to look "sporty" your coaches could wear sport caps or have whistles and water bottles. Instead of having to remember each week to bring these items, allow them to keep them at church. This way your coaches can wear their regular church clothes, and just pull on a few "sport" items to look like coaches.
- Make the monthly meeting for coaches extra inspirational, so that they want to continue participating in the program as the year progresses.
- Allow for larger groups if necessary. (With the help of group notifications on Facebook, it would not be that difficult for someone to coach 10 students.)



AWARD CEREMONIES

A very important part of being a coach is helping your students feel like winners. This means you need to define what behavior you are looking for, and reward that behavior. We recommend rewarding the students when they have done the homework assignments, where they put the lesson into action during the week. Attendance and memorization are "training" and doing the assignments during the week would actually be the competition. Encourage your students that training is very important if they want to win. However, the real world competition is where they actually do win.

One idea is to have an award ceremony at the end of each month, when you finish studying each fruit of the Spirit. For example, LOVE has 5 weeks of study. Those who did the assignment at least 3 weeks could win the bronze medal, silver for 4 weeks, and the gold medal for all 5 weeks. You could adjust how your students win the medals after the first month, as some villages or areas of town will need more challenging assignments than others will. Some zones will be more evangelistic, and you will need easier assignments so that they stay encouraged and want to continue with your class.

At the end of the year, have a larger award for those who won several awards throughout the year. This could be a trophy or a nicer medal. Make the awards even more special by giving them to your students on stage in front of the adults in church!

Smaller weekly rewards:
- Hugs
- High-fives
- Stickers on their shirt
- Stamp on a hand
- Small candy

Larger rewards at end of month:
- Award ceremony with gold, silver and bronze medals given to the children. (Bronze for 3 weeks of assignments finished, silver for 4 weeks, and gold for 5 weeks. Alternatively, you could give bronze for 2 punches, silver for 3 punches and gold for 4 punches per week.)
- A party at your home
- Certificates
- Something given in large church in front of the adults
- Trophies



INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

The main job of the head coach is to keep the coaches motivated. One important way to do this is to host a monthly inspirational meeting. You can provide a meal, pray together, look at sports data and see how it can apply to our Christian lives. In addition, you can check out Olympic athletes or watch an inspirational sports movie together with popcorn or other yummy foods. Discuss with your coaches the idea that if it was worth it for the athletes to work hard, then isn't it worth even more for us to work for spiritual and eternal gain?



Each coach helps 6 children for 5 weeks for the fruit of Love. Record their progress here. Make photocopies as needed.

COACH:	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

COACH:	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

COACH:	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

COACH:	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

COACH:	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

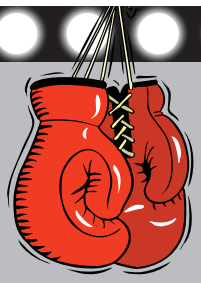
COACH:	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

COACH:	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

COACH:	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

COACH:	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

www.ChildrenAreImportant.com – Children's ministry resources, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum for churches and teachers.

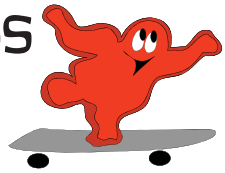


CHAMPIONS

LOVE

1 LOVE VS. SELFISHNESS

Bible story: Jesus dies on the cross
Mathew 27:27-56



MEMORY VERSE

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16

2 LOVE VS. JUDGMENTAL ATTITUDE

Bible story: Speck of dust and plank
Matthew 7:1-5



MEMORY VERSE

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Matthew 7:1-2

3 LOVE VS. HATRED

Bible story: Judas betrays Jesus
Matthew 26:14-16



MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." 1 John 4:20

4 LOVE VS. SELF-JUSTIFICATION

Bible story: Parable of the Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37



MEMORY VERSE

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27

5 LOVE VS. SPIRITUAL VANITY

Bible story: David chosen as king
1 Samuel 16:1-13



MEMORY VERSE

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7



HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (IN THE RING)

Discuss last week's homework assignment, and give your students the following week's assignment. They are located in the student books and on the match cards. Remind your students that only those who do the assignment can become champions. None of us will become a champion from attending church or memorizing the Bible, but in LIVING it! We recommend you create small groups with coaches to help the students track their assignments. (See more in small groups section.)

Doing the homework assignment once during the week will obviously not "knockout" that sin, just as one punch will not knockout an opponent in boxing. Using this analogy is helpful to show the students that if they actually want to become champions, they need to "throw more punches" during the week. Have your coaches keep track of how many "punches" the students achieve during the week and encourage competition. Each "punch" is an instance where they did the assignment during the week. To make the punches more fun, use these four different types of punches: jab, hook, cross and uppercut.

www.ChildrenAreImportant.com – Children's ministry resources, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum for churches and teachers.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

IN THE RING

Play a game that your friends suggest, play at the time they want (if you have permission) and play it for as long as they want. Do not mention to them what you desire to play. This time, your desires do not matter, because you are showing real LOVE with no thought for yourself.



IN THE RING

Tell someone "Good job" and compliment them for something good that you see. Bring a small pocket mirror around with you all day. When you are tempted to judge someone, take out the pocket mirror and look at yourself. Remind yourself that you do not need to help others fix their faults.



IN THE RING

Do something nice for someone you dislike. Hold your tongue when you see someone else cheating or about to mess up. Do not tell on them or get them in trouble.



IN THE RING

Stop to help someone in need this week, ignoring all the excuses you may have for not doing it. Do something special for someone who is not in your level of society.



IN THE RING

Ask God if there is a spiritual practice you should stop, as you move your focus onto LOVE. Do more actions this week to show love: do not boast, do what is best for others and not yourself, and do not hold people accountable for the wrongs they do.



MATCH CARDS

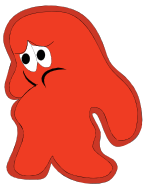
Pass out the attendance reward, a card with the week's match fight on it. Encourage your students to attend all year, and collect all the cards! These cards are available to download and print very economically. You can also use the cards to play a memory game, matching the assignments to each sin.



JOY

6 JOY VS. JEALOUSY

Bible story: Religious leaders are jealous
Acts 5:12-33

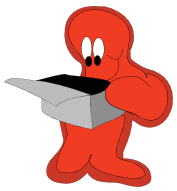


MEMORY VERSE

"You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?" 1 Corinthians 3:3

7 JOY VS. GREED

Bible story: The rich young man
Matthew 19:16-30



MEMORY VERSE

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." Luke 12:15

8 JOY VS. SELF-PITY

Bible story: Jonah and the worm
Jonah 4:1-10



MEMORY VERSE

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

9 JOY VS. UNGRATEFULNESS

Bible story: Jesus heals 10 lepers
Luke 17:11-19



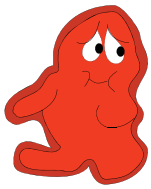
MEMORY VERSE

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Psalm 100:4

PEACE

10 PEACE VS. WORRY

Bible story: Elijah fed by ravens
1 Kings 17:1-6



MEMORY VERSE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

11 PEACE VS. FEAR

Bible story: Peter walks on water
Matthew 14:22-33



MEMORY VERSE

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20-21

12 PEACE VS. DISCORD

Bible story: Turn the other cheek
Matthew 5:38-42



MEMORY VERSE

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

13 PEACE VS. SELF-TRUST

Bible story: Jesus feeds the 5000
Luke 9:10-17



MEMORY VERSE

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

www.ChildrenAreImportant.com – Children's ministry resources, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum for churches and teachers.

IN THE RING

Thank God for the spiritual gifts, physical appearance, possessions, and family that you have. Ask God to give you joy and contentment for what you have. Choose someone you may have been jealous of in the past, and give them a small gift. (Do not tell them of your past jealousy.)



IN THE RING

Give some of your own personal money to God in the offering plate at church, not knowing to whom it will go. Use some of your money to serve someone else. If you do not have any money, take a possession you have and give it away.



IN THE RING

Help at a homeless shelter, or a ministry that feeds the poor. Alternatively, visit the sick in a hospital. Pray and ask God to open your eyes to the bigger picture, and help you take your eyes off yourself.



IN THE RING

Thank your parents (or someone else) for something they give you every day. Choose something to go without for a while, as a reminder that you may not always have it.



IN THE RING

Share something you have with someone else, even if it means you will have to go without. Either food, clothing, bus fare, or something else that cost you money. Ask God to meet your needs.



IN THE RING

Choose something that feels impossible to do, and set aside your fear. Ask the Lord Jesus to help you do it. Then start taking steps into it. (It is a success for you to start, even if you sink as Peter did. The task is to choose something that feels impossible and try it.)



IN THE RING

Allow yourself to be wronged once this week. (It will most likely happen on its own.) Your assignment is to do nothing.



IN THE RING

Ask God for an opportunity to serve Him in an area where you are weak. Sign up in your church to serve in that area. If you are quiet, speak out more this week. If you are loud, be quiet more this week.



Each coach helps 6 children for 4 weeks for the fruit of Joy. Record their progress here. Make photocopies as needed.

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

Each coach helps 6 children for 4 weeks for the fruit of Peace. Record their progress here. Make photocopies as needed.

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

COACH:	1	2	3	4
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

SAMPLE

God *is using*



you TO CHANGE THE NEXT *generation*

Head Coach Champions
English
20316

www.ChildrenAreImportant.com
info@childrenareimportant.com
We are located in Mexico.
DK Editorial Pro-Visión A.C.

Children are Important