

CHRISTIAN CHAMPIONS 

LESSON II

A CHRISTIAN CHAMPION . . .

KNOWS GOD — Through a Personal Relationship with Christ

	TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
	INTRODUCTION.....	2-2
A	SET-UP & PREPARATION.....	2-2
B	KICKOFF & SNACK.....	2-2
C	PRAYER, REVIEW LAST LESSON, PRESENT AWARDS, RECITE MOTTO.....	2-3
D	BIBLE STUDY, CHARACTER; Q&A.....	2-3
E	CHRISTIAN CHAMPION STUDY.....	2-6
F	TAKEAWAY DISCUSSION.....	2-7
G	CRAZY CONTEST.....	2-7
H	PRAYER HUDDLE, CLOSING CHEER.....	2-8
I	DISTRIBUTE, REMIND, CLEAN-UP.....	2-8
	PARENT LETTER.....	2-9



LESSON II

INTRODUCTION

COACH: Last time we encouraged Club members that they don't have to be super-stars to be Champions for God. Whatever their skills or abilities, they should strive to serve the Lord. We met famous Christian Athletes in the *Path to Victory* Bible, and saw that reading God's Word is a big factor to them. Some have called the Bible their playbook for life. If the Bible is our playbook for life, Jesus Christ is our Coach for life, Who helps us interpret and follow the plays as God desires. Jesus coaches us as we build a personal relationship with Him. We will ask members to consider whether they have truly given their lives to Jesus, to let Him coach them, and share why this is so important to them.

As you may recall, each Club meeting has a primary theme. This will be the second of three lessons on **KNOWING God**, the next three will be **TRUSTING** Him, then three on **OBEYING** Him, and finally three on **SERVING** Him (this explains the KTOS surrounding the cross on the logo). We'll weave in the Gospel throughout the year, but it hits hard this week as we teach and remind the members that the **ONLY** way to know God is through a personal relationship with Christ.

"*No one* comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6b We don't want an "alter call" in these meetings, but always be aware and prepared to talk with members privately who demonstrate a need for some guidance in making a first-time commitment to Christ. Should you enjoy this privilege, you'll need to be sure to encourage the members to share this decision with their parents. You may have the opportunity to chat with them, too. (You may wish to have and use a resource like *Steps to Peace with God* or a comparable resource as a tool for presenting the Gospel. Most Christian bookstores have these items for a low price.)

Even this week's Crazy Contest, *Frisbee Discus Throw*, will pave the way to share the Gospel. For the only way they win the point is to get the Frisbee through the hoop!

Have fun and thanks for serving the Lord and the youth in this ministry!

SECTION A.

❖ SET-UP & PREPARATION

COACH: The leader should review this lesson in its entirety and then select a Christian Champion to support the Bible study and Takeaway theme. Use either a live "Champion" or one from the *Path to Victory* Bible. (Refer to the Leader's Guide for assistance in selecting, qualifying, and preparing a live Champion). The leader should also select a Crazy Contest and plan for the Kickoff portion of the meeting. The lesson is designed to allow the leader flexibility, but advance prayer and planning is required to guide the meeting. The leader should plan to fold their experiences into the discussion.

SECTION B.

❖ KICKOFF & SNACK



CHRISTIAN CHAMPIONS

LESSON II

SECTION C.

❖ PRAYER

Let's take a moment to open in a word of prayer.

❖ REVIEW LAST LESSON

❖ PRESENT AWARDS

❖ RECITE MOTTO

* Ask the members to stand and recite this motto together.

CHRISTIAN CHAMPIONS . . .

KNOW God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
They **TRUST** God to lead and guide their daily life;
They **OBEY** God's Word and **SERVE** God faithfully.
A CHRISTIAN CHAMPION IS A TRUE CHAMPION FOR GOD.

SECTION D.

❖ BIBLE STUDY — ACTS 9:1-23

❖ CHARACTER — PAUL

- * What does it mean to be "cool"?
- * Who do you think of as solid, neat people and why? (**COACH: Take a moment and think about it.**)
- * Do others see them the same way?
- * Do your ideas of who is "cool" match the views of others, or do you think differently?
- * How about yourself? Do you think that you are solid and "cool"?
- * How do others feel about you?
- * Do you feel "popular" or more like just one of the crowd, or even "overlooked"?

These are tough and confusing questions for us. We **all** want to be accepted, respected, and even admired, don't we? We want to walk into a room and have people say, "There's Joe/Michelle. He/she is so cool!" And when it comes to competition, of all types, we want to be the best. We dream of being the best soccer player - making that heroic goal. Or the best student getting the A+ while others get B's and C's. Maybe we dream of being the best musician, playing a concert in front of a huge crowd. Or the best artist, getting applause for a beautiful piece of art. We all want to do well and be viewed as tops in our field. We want to be Champions. Sometimes we deny it or downplay it, but we do dream of being Champions



LESSON II

And it is great to have this desire. It motivates and challenges us to be our best. But we must not let this dream and desire confuse us or burden us. We shouldn't feel defeated when we don't make the goal, win the prize, or get the A+. For our goal should be higher. Our desire should be even greater. We should strive to be a champion for God as the priority and focus in our life. We should strive to be **CHRISTIAN CHAMPIONS**. We can and will find great joy and fulfillment as we do!

Today we will meet some cool athletics as well as a famous Bible character who are **CHRISTIAN CHAMPIONS**.

Open your Bibles to the book of Acts, right after the 4 Gospels, to Chapter 9. **(This may be new to some - be prepared to help)**. Here we will study about a man named Saul who was likely viewed as "cool" by many of his people, the Jews. He was a scholar and a Pharisee, one of the well trained and bright men of leadership in the Jewish faith. He was a man of action who was admired by many of his people because he persecuted the growing church that Christ had founded. Early believers in Christ must have been fearful of encountering Saul for he was known to be active in doing all he could to jail and destroy these people and this faith. Saul believed these early Christians were wrong and were harming the Jewish faith. He was a champion of the Jews in persecuting the early church. He was likely to have been encouraged and cheered by many in his faith. In Acts 7:58, we first meet him, as he watches one of the early apostles, Stephen, stoned to death, falsely accused of being a blasphemer. In the first few verses of Acts 8 we see more of Saul as the major persecutor of Christ's church. So he was a champion, of sorts, to the Jewish hard-liners -- those who despised Christ and His church. Let's see what happens to "Champion" Saul in Acts 9. Would someone read the first xx verses?

COACH: Assign the first 23 verses, divided among 2-3 members.

ACTS 9:1-23

- ¹ *Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest*
- ² *and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.*
- ³ *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.*
- ⁴ *He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*
- ⁵ *"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.*
- ⁶ *"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*
- ⁷ *The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.*
- ⁸ *Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.*
- ⁹ *For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.*
- ¹⁰ *In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"*
"Yes, Lord," he answered.
- ¹¹ *The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.*

2-4



LESSON II

- ¹² *In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."*
- ¹³ *"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem.*
- ¹⁴ *And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."*
- ¹⁵ *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.*
- ¹⁶ *I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."*
- ¹⁷ *Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-- Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-- has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*
- ¹⁸ *Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and*
- ¹⁹ *was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.*
- ²⁰ *At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.*
- ²¹ *All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"*
- ²² *Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.*
- ²³ *After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him, **STOP HERE!***

❖ **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

COACH: Try to get the members to answer – here are key thoughts.

1. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

Saul is becoming a Christian - dedicating his life to Christ. He's changing in a powerful and awesome way.

2. WHAT'S HAPPENING TO SAUL?

He's really receiving the Holy Spirit - meeting Christ.

3. IS HE STILL A CHAMPION?

No longer for the Jews, but finally for the Lord - for God.

4. FOR WHOM?

He has become a true champion – a Christian Champion. Look at Acts 13:9 (**COACH: Read it.**) He has a new name and the Holy Spirit - A fresh start.

5. DID SAUL KNOW GOD BEFORE?

He only knew about him, based on studies and ritual.



LESSON II

6. HOW ABOUT NOW, AS PAUL?

Through Christ, he truly came to KNOW God.

SECTION E.

❖ CHRISTIAN CHAMPION STUDY

COACH: Select a live Champion to visit the meeting or read about one from *Path to Victory*. Since there are many versions of the *Path to Victory* Bible, with new ones published each year, we encourage you to review the testimonies featured in your edition and to select athletes/testimonies which will have the greatest impact on your Club. Consider which athletes are best known and admired by your group and which testimonies best emphasize the theme of a given lesson. Then weave in your own testimony and insightful application questions to spur interest and discussion by your Club members.

Your *Path to Victory* Bible features testimonies from famous athletes throughout the book and special in-depth testimonies at the very front and back of the book. They share why God is an important part of their lives and how Bible study and prayer is a key aspect of their faith. In addition, this book encourages and provides an excellent guide for personal Bible study.

This second meeting will focus on Knowing God through a personal relationship with Christ. Today we want to present the Gospel and the vital truth that truly knowing God only comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. To support this plan, please review your *Path to Victory* Bible to find and share an athlete's testimony which emphasizes this relationship. Fold in your own testimony and discuss your relationship with Christ as a powerful opener for this Club. Sharing more from your own heart and life will always have impact on Club members. As time permits, ask Club members to skim through the book and share a few other selected testimonies, which focus on this relationship. Discuss the athlete's testimony and your own along with these application questions:

- Tell me about a relationship you have with a relative or close friend – what's it like?
- Do you enjoy being together, talking, sharing? Are you loyal and caring to each other?
- What does it mean to have a personal relationship with Christ? Is talking and loyalty a factor?
- Is this really possible – a relationship with God? Why/How?
- Do you have such a relationship? Can you improve and enjoy this relationship more? How?
- Are you loyal to Christ in the way you live?

The Gospel Message: We have heard testimonies from athletes and have seen Saul's conversion in the Bible, discussing the importance of a Knowing God through a personal relationship with Christ. We can all be Christian Champions as we Know, Trust, Obey, and Serve God in our daily lives.



CHRISTIAN CHAMPIONS

LESSON II

K: Know, T: Trust, O: Obey, and S: Serve. These are themes we will focus on in the months ahead in Christian Champions. They surround the cross on the motto cards as a reminder of what a Christian Champion's focus in life should be. To truly Know God, we need to have a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ, Who said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6 Do you Know God through a personal relationship with Christ? If you don't, there's no time like the present to learn. God loves us and created each of you. Even though He loves us and created us, we still blow it when we disobey Him and His commands – that's called sinning. Fortunately, in God's love for us, He provides a way for us to be freed and forgiven from all of our sins, by committing ourselves to a relationship with Jesus Christ, God's only Son, Who died on the cross to pay the price for all of our sins. So, if you want to get right with God and get close to Him, you just need to pray to Him that you want Him to forgive you and that you accept and trust that letting Christ into your life and turning all of your sins over to Jesus will bring this forgiveness. As you make this decision you can experience a new relationship with God and Jesus, who is alive today and is even here with us now. I'd be happy to discuss this with any of you at any time during or after our meetings. **Close discussion in prayer, praying that the members would come to accept and know Christ in a deeper way.**

SECTION F.

❖ TAKEAWAY DISCUSSION

God may let us be an athletic or artistic champion. He may bless us with great abilities to be #1 in school, but then again, He may not. Whatever the status He allows us in the world, He always allows us, and expects us, to be Champions for Him. God allowed Saul to be a Champion of the Pharisees, but Saul was wrong and was an evil Champion. God finally saved him from this evil plight and enabled Saul to become Paul, one of the greatest Christian Champions that ever lived. He wrote much of the New Testament and was a faithful teacher and servant of the Lord. Saul was changed, and became Paul, a Christian Champion, only as he came to truly **Know** God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

SECTION G.

❖ CRAZY CONTEST — FRISBEE DISCUS THROW

BACKGROUND — Dave Johnson was an Olympic Champion who competed in the "Decathlon" in 1992. This is a contest of 10 events, including the discus throw. Today we will have our own discus throw, with Frisbees.

MATERIALS REQUIRED — 2-3 Frisbees; 2-3 Hula Hoops (Or an 8-10 foot rope tied as a hoop or a trash can).



LESSON II

SET-UP — The members will take turns holding the hula-hoop vertically as the target, approximately 60-100 feet from the boys throwing the Frisbees OR lay the hoop or rope hoop down on the ground as the target. A trash can will work, too.

RULES/NOTES — Each member gets 3-5 “throws” (after 1-2 practice rounds) and makes 1 point/goal.

WINNING — The member with the most points wins. Use a “sudden death” contest as required. A certificate will be presented at the opening of the next meeting.

SECTION H.

❖ PRAYER HUDDLE

COACH: Pull the members together in a huddle (yes, like in football — boys with boys and girls with girls) and open a short time of prayer together. Pray about key points from the lesson takeaway and any requests. Allow time for each group to pray.

❖ CLOSING CHEER

HUDDLE — All huddle together and put hands in center and cheer:
KNOW – TRUST – OBEY – SERVE

THANK — the members and encourage them to return.

SECTION I.

❖ **DISTRIBUTE** — Parent letters.

❖ **REMIND** — The youth to bring: (1) their *Path to Victory* Bibles and; (2) Motto Cards to meetings.

❖ **CLEAN-UP**

