



TEAM STUDY 4 - COURAGE

GAMECHANGING GOAL... RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

"Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous?" Joshua 1:9

WELCOME (Student Leader welcomes everyone and opens in prayer.)

WARM-UP (Student Leader leads the huddle through the Warm-Up)

In 1994, University of Texas freshman kicker Phil Dawson had a spectacular year. As a result, he was named to Playboy Magazine's Preseason All-American football team. As a Christian, Dawson took a stand and told the magazine to remove him from the team. Dawson said he had no interest in being connected with pornography or the enticement of an all-expense paid weekend at the Playboy Mansion. Dawson said many of his teammates didn't understand his decision and when they asked, he used it as an opportunity to share his faith. Dawson's stance encouraged other collegiate stars since that time to also turn down this recognition, including quarterbacks Danny Wuerffel and Tim Tebow.

Courage: Fulfilling my responsibilities and standing up for convictions in spite of being afraid.

1. Describe a time when you showed tremendous courage in the face of opposition or fear.
2. How can showing courage make a difference to people around you?

Team Building Activity

Before a new season begins, coaches often write a list of goals for the team. Write down and discuss your athletic goals with your team. These can include measurable achievements and/or personal objectives.

WORKOUT (Student Leader begins the **WORKOUT** with this story about Tim Tebow)

We can set all the goals we want, but without the help of supportive people in our lives, those goals will be much more difficult to achieve. For athletes, that positive influence often comes in the form of coaches and trainers who push, motivate, and encourage you to always give your best effort. Godly influencers will encourage athletes to compete for something bigger than themselves, which in turn motivates athletes to give 100 percent in every aspect of the game. This type of relationship resembles the practices of the early Christians in **Acts 2:46**, *"And every day they devoted themselves to meeting*

together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house.” They worked together to achieve their goals.

Former Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow has always been that kind of athlete. While playing for the Florida Gators as both a backup quarterback and the starter, he did whatever was asked of him. Tebow didn’t care what it took to succeed. He was willing to hand the ball off to his star running back, stand in the pocket and look for an open receiver downfield, scramble for the first down, or even set up as wide receiver and catch a pass in the middle of the field. Tebow reiterated that all-in attitude while talking to reporters leading up to his 2010 rookie season with the Denver Broncos. “Whatever [the coach] asks me to do, I’m going to be more than excited enough to do it.”

For Tebow, his availability and hard work serves a much higher purpose. It’s not just about winning championships or individual accolades. Tim stated, “If everybody sees that you are the hardest working person out there, then they are going to respect you and what you say, and you are going to have a lot more opportunity to influence them.” This kind of approach shows tremendous courage to a world that is watching Tim very closely.

1. List the people who have been the most influential in your athletic career. In what ways have they helped you achieve your goals?
2. How can you and your teammates work together to achieve your goal of impacting the world through the gospel?
3. Using Tebow or another of your favorite athletes as an example, what are some ways you have made yourself available to do whatever the coach needed from you?

Throughout history, people have loved seeing bravery and heroism in action. They are virtues not confined to any single generation, race or religion. Courage is one of the foundation stones of the human spirit. The Bible holds many heroic and courageous acts of unselfish service and availability to God. One such remarkable story is chronicled in the Book of Esther. Esther was an orphaned Jewish woman who was chosen by the Persian king, Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes), to be his queen.

When one of the king’s men plotted to destroy the Jews, her cousin Mordecai warned her of the plot. She was the only one who could stop this from happening. At that point, Esther could have turned her back on Mordecai and her own people. Instead, she took a stand and risked her life in order to save them all. In this story, Mordecai—the man who raised Esther—served as that influential GAMECHANGER in her life. He challenged her to make a difference and in turn, she became the GAMECHANGER in the lives of hundreds of thousands of her people.

Before she could follow through with God’s plan, Esther had to overcome her fears and insecurities. Even though the king had handpicked her to be his queen, she was still unsure of her abilities. She didn’t feel as if she was equipped for the job. Mordecai reminded her, however, that God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called. In other words, God will give you everything you need to be a GAMECHANGER in someone else’s life.

In God's kingdom, the ultimate GAMECHANGER is someone who recognizes the needs of others and reaches out to help by showing them the love of Christ. The key has nothing to do with our talent or ability, but rather our availability. It's about putting yourself in a position to be used by God, and then trusting that He will give you the words to say and the boldness to say them.

1. Read **Esther 4:11-14**. In what ways did Mordecai challenge Esther to do the right thing?

God has you at this specific place, at this specific time, for His specific purpose. Looking at where you are in life right now—in your home, on your team, and at your school—how does verse 14 apply to what God is calling you to do?

2. Who are some of the people you can influence for Jesus Christ?

WRAP-UP (Student Leader leads the huddle through the Wrap-Up)

The Bible tells us that God did not give us a spirit of fear, but the perfect love of Jesus drives fear out of our lives! Biblical courage is produced in our hearts by God's Spirit when we surrender our lives to Jesus because of His perfect love; taking my sin and dying the death I deserved. True courage comes when we are Christ-centered, not me-centered. Daily reminders of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross encourage us by keeping the focus of our lives on the One who is the source of our strength.

Remind your huddle of any FCA events and upcoming games of those athletes in your huddle.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

