

1 COR. 9:24



TRAINING GROUNDS

A 3-WEEK BIBLE STUDY FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN'S
PASTORS TO PREPARE THEIR STUDENTS FOR CAMP

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TRAINING GROUNDS - SERMON BUILDER

SERIES OVERVIEW:

The Olympics are a time of intense competition. It's a time when athletes are presented with obstacles and challenges that test their "grit" and endurance. The ultimate goal is to be the best you can be and come out in victory! In order for an athlete to have success in any sport or challenge, he or she must begin to prepare themselves long before the game. Most successful athletes have a coach or trainer who is preparing them to be the best they can be. As believers, we are all on the road to something great! If you are planning and preparing for youth camp, know that God has REVIVAL in store for you this year. We can have the best camp ever if we allow God to be our coach, listen to him, believe him, and obey him.

Week One

- Main Scripture: John 10:27; Luke 10:38-42; Romans 10:17 (ESV)
- Bottom Line: Listening to the coach leads you to Success.

Week Two

- Main Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:13; John 20:24-27; James 1:5-8
- Bottom Line: Believing coach builds faith for endurance.

Week Three

- Main Scripture: James 4:8; Acts 2:37-41; 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Bottom Line: Obeying the coach activates discipline to win.



WEEK ONE

LISTENING TO THE COACH

WEEK ONE:

Main Scripture: John 10:27; Luke 10:38–42; Romans 10:17 (ESV)

Bottom Line: Listening to the coach leads you to success.

Capture: Grab their attention with an illustration.

Illustration: Have you ever heard something really important, like instructions to a test, but weren't really paying attention? Or maybe you've been on a road trip and heard where to turn but it didn't really register because you were distracted. Sometimes our relationship with God can be the same way. We think we know where to go and what's best but we end up taking a few detours because we weren't listening well.

This series we are talking about revival. The definition of revival is, "an awakening." The first step to experiencing revival in our lives is to learn how to hear God better.

Connect: Connect them to God's word.

Question: Can you confidently say that you know how to hear God speak into your life? I think most of us might hesitate a little — we want to know for certain that God is speaking and we know His will, but if we're honest, we struggle to know for certain. Tonight, we're going to dive into Scripture to learn how to better understand how to know what God is saying.

Scripture: John 10:27 — We know that if we belong to God we can hear Him.

Consider: What does this mean for us today?

God is always speaking, but if we're being honest, we don't always know how to hear Him or what He's saying.

● WEEK ONE: CONTINUED

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 — Here we see that Jesus was teaching. Mary was listening intently at the feet of Jesus while her sister Martha was distracted.

Question: Who would you say your life looks more like, Mary or Martha?

Jesus' words are still true for us today, "There is only one thing worth being concerned about." — There is only one voice worth listening to.

Bottom Line: Listening to God leads you to revival.

Collide: How do we apply this in our lives?

Scripture: Romans 10:17 (ESV or any translation that uses the term "word")

We need faith to experience revival in our lives, our church, and our community and it starts with hearing God's word.

Share a story from your life when you were stuck in your faith and it was a word from God that led you to the breakthrough you needed.

One of the best ways to hear from God is by reading the Scriptures.

Application: Position yourself to hear God by setting aside time to listen.

Call: How do we respond to the message?

Altar moment: Consider a quiet time of reflection during the altar moment. Play instrumental worship, lead them in a simple prayer and give them 2-3 minutes of a silent opportunity to ask God to speak and to be still enough to listen.

Tonight, we want to give you the chance to hear God. As we give you these minutes to reflect, still your heart, and be a blank slate for God to come and speak revival on.

Small Group Questions:

1. Have you ever not listened to directions and ended up taking a detour in life? Explain what happened.

2. Can you recall a time in your life when you heard God speak?

3. What distractions keep you from truly hearing God in your life?

4. How can you practice listening to God through His word this week?



WEEK TWO

BELIEVING THE COACH

WEEK TWO:

Main Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:13; John 20:24-27; James 1:5-8

Bottom Line: Believing coach builds faith for endurance.

Capture: Grab their attention with an illustration.

Illustration: Have you ever heard the phrase, "too good to be true?" Sometimes when I hear something that sounds amazing my next question is always, "what's the catch?" It's natural to be skeptical, but what happens when we take that too far and become doubtful about good things in our lives? Can I be honest to say that I've even struggled with my relationship with God before to not doubt Him? Unending grace, love, kindness... it sometimes can feel like it's too good to be true!

Connect: Connect them to God's word.

Question: Do you ever struggle to believe God? Sometimes pain and doubt keep us from truly believing God when He speaks to us in His word. Tonight, we're going to see how people in the Scriptures struggled with this exact same thing — and how Jesus showed up for them.

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:13 — God's word is more than human ideas and it has power to work in our lives.

Consider: What does this mean for us today?

Scripture: John 20:24-27 — How many of us can relate to Thomas? We want to believe, but we wrestle with very real doubts. Jesus says one powerful word in response to his doubt: Believe!

Jesus did whatever it took to silence doubt and cause Thomas to believe again.

● WEEK TWO: CONTINUED

Story: Tell a personal story of a doubt you wrestled with in your relationship with God. Share how God showed up and proved you wrong, giving you hope and peace to trust Him completely.

Isn't it amazing to have a friend like Jesus who doesn't shame us for our doubts, but goes the extra mile to silence our doubts in a deep expression of love?

Bottom Line: Believing God builds faith for revival.

Collide: How do we apply this in our lives?

Scripture: James 1:5-8 — There is one thing we have to do if we want to see revival in our lives. We have to stand against our doubts in faith.

We need to remind ourselves of the times that God has come through. If you haven't experienced it, listen to the testimonies of those around you and expect your breakthrough to come.

The key is to believe God with a unified loyalty — not a divided loyalty between God and the world. We trust what we hold on to, will you hold on to God's word or your own doubts?

Application: Stand firm in faith by surrendering your doubts.

Call: How do we respond to the message?

Altar moment: Tonight, whatever it is that is causing you to doubt — God is calling you to believe. True revival will come when we stand firm in faith and surrender to God. As we come to the altar, let go of your doubts and walk away with a new heart of revival — one that has accepted the work of God in your life.

Small Group Questions:

1. Have you ever had a "too good to be true" moment? Describe the situation.

2. Where in your life have you ever struggled to believe God? How have you fought to keep faith in hard times?

3. Are there any promises in God's word that you're struggling to believe?

4. What needs to be surrendered for you to stand firm in faith this week?



WEEK THREE

OBEYING THE COACH

WEEK THREE:

Main Scripture: James 4:8; Acts 2:37-41; 2 Chronicles 7:14

Bottom Line: Obeying the coach activates discipline to win.

Note to the Youth Pastor: However and whenever you choose to communicate this, we recommend setting an expectation for the end of service being an extended time of worship to truly seek revival in the hearts of our students.

Capture: Grab their attention with an illustration.

Illustration: Have you ever felt torn? Like you couldn't make up your mind between your love for two things? Marvel vs D.C., Apple vs Android, Xbox vs Playstation — you name it. Tell a personal story here about feeling torn between two things you love. In our relationship with God, we can often feel torn between our love for Jesus and our love for the world.

Connect: Connect them to God's word.

Question: Do you ever feel torn between God and the things you love? Tonight, we're going to look at one of the most important elements of experiencing revival.

Recap: We have talked about the importance of hearing God and believing God, but most importantly, we have to obey God.

Scripture: James 4:8 — Whether it's relationships, sports, money, games, etc. there might be something in your life challenging your obedience and loyalty to God.

Consider: What does this mean for us today?

When our loyalty is divided between God and something else, we become disobedient and separate ourselves from God's presence.

● WEEK THREE: CONTINUED

Scripture: Acts 2:37-41 — This is what revival looks like. When Peter preached this message of hearing, believing, and obeying God, 3,000 people were saved and added to the church.

Obedience to God brings revival. We see it in Acts 2 and it's still true today.

This kind of revival requires and an undivided loyalty towards Christ. We must repent of our sins and embrace God's ways to experience more of His presence.

Bottom Line: Obeying God activates revival.

Collide: How do we apply this in our lives?

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 7:14 — This is God's recipe for revival.

1. Humble yourself and pray: Humility is the key to finding more of God, prayer is the way we seek Him.
2. Seek God's face: Revival is not a superpower, an emotion, or anything less than a complete outpouring of God's presence. We need obedience and discipline to seek God's face more than ever before.
3. Turn from our wicked ways: Old school terminology — repent. It means a direct about face or a 180-degree shift. What in your life needs repentance that stands in the way of God healing your heart?

Share a story when you experienced the revival power of God in your life.

Application: Revival healing comes when you pray, seek, and repent.

Call: How do we respond to the message?

Altar moment: Tonight, we are going to have an extended time of response for worship and prayer. We encourage you to apply what we've heard over the next few minutes. First, take time to humble your heart and pray. Begin

to seek God's face in worship. Finally, whatever sin exists in your heart, leave it at the altar in complete surrender and watch God ignite revival that heals your heart and changes your world.

Small Group Questions:

1. Where have you experienced a divided loyalty in your life?

2. Have you ever seen something try to come between you and God in your life?

3. How do you embrace obedience when God convicts you of putting something before Him?

4. What can you do this week to consistently experience a personal revival?
