



CHARACTER COACH

PLAYBOOK | 2025 - 2026

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

FCA

OVERVIEW

VISION | WHY?

To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

MISSION | WHAT?

To lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

STRATEGY | HOW?

Engage • Equip • Empower

HUDDLE STRUCTURE

Warm Up > Work Out > Wrap Up

VALUES

Integrity | Serving | Teamwork | Excellence

CHARACTER COACHES ARE A **PIPELINE**

PRAY FOR THEM

Prayer is a wartime walkie-talkie pleading for God to send help. Spend time in prayer at least once a week for your team huddle. Pray for the salvation of the lost, the spiritual growth of those who know the Lord, and the specific needs the coaches and players have.

Ask the coaches how you can pray for them. If possible and wise, pull the coach aside and pray for him/her personally.

BE PRESENT WITH THEM

The ministry of presence is huge in the lives of athletes and coaches. Simply being at their practice, game, or walk-thru brings a sense of comfort and peace to them. They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

According to your availability, try to be present before and after the huddle for conversation and relationship building. And try to be present at some practices and games. A general rule of thumb is to be present with them for at least one hour during the week in addition to your huddle time.

LOVE THEM

Love is the passionate pursuit of others for their highest good. Passionately pursue your team. Look for ways you can bless them. Look for people and churches who can honor them, provide for them, and pour into them.

Love is the universal language. Many players won't remember the words you said to them, but they will all remember how you made them feel when you were around them. Leverage the love of God that's been poured into your heart and use it to bless your team.

INSPIRE THEM

One of the chief purposes of the huddle is to raise the team's awareness of the glory of God and awesomeness of His kingdom. Your calling is to help them see the amazing privilege they have to be part of the kingdom of God.

Inspire them with your weekly messages. Inspire them with the quality of your love for them. Give them a taste for something better, deeper, and stronger than they experience in the world.

EQUIP THEM

Because God's Word is so powerful, equip them with God's truth. Speak God's Word to them each week. Stories are great, but let them be supplementary. Present the FOUR to them regularly. Give out the FOUR bracelets to those who want them. Reward those who memorize the FOUR or other Scripture.

Consider using the Sports New Testament. Distribute them each week to use in the huddle.

INVEST IN THEM

Investing is taking a resource you have and putting it somewhere else so that you can get a greater return. As a Character Coach you can invest your time, talent, and treasure into the coaches and athletes on your team.

Maintain an “investment” mentality. Every time you step on that campus, you’re making a kingdom investment. Every time you go to their game, you’re making a kingdom investment. Every time you pray for them, you’re making a kingdom investment.

NAME THEM

One of the most powerful tools in ministry is to know and call people by their names. It honors them. It tells them they matter. It connects them to you on a personal level.

Get a team roster. Talk to players before and after the huddle. Commit their names to memory. Call them by their names as much as possible.

EMPOWER THEM

You have the great opportunity to empower coaches and athletes to lead for the glory of God. Find ways to give away leadership. Identify those who love God. Have them pray. Have them read Scripture. Have them give a testimony. Have them give a short lesson. God will use this in their lives no matter how rough it goes sometimes.

Be wise. Be discerning. Be careful. But remember that



CHARACTER COACHES ARE A PIPELINE OF GOD’S LOVE:

PRAY FOR THEM.

INSPIRE THEM.

BE **PRESENT** WITH THEM.

EQUIP THEM.

LOVE THEM.

INVEST IN THEM.

NAME THEM.

EMPOWER THEM.

THE FOUR

THE GOSPEL IN FOUR SIMPLE TRUTHS



GOD **LOVES** YOU

God made you and loves you! His love is boundless and unconditional. God is real, and He wants you to personally experience His love and discover His purpose for your life through a relationship with Him.

Genesis 1:27 and John 3:16



SIN **SEPARATES** YOU

You cannot experience God's love when you ignore Him. People search everywhere for meaning and fulfillment—but not with God. They don't trust God and ignore His ways. The Bible calls this sin. Everyone has sinned. Sin damages your relationships with other people and with God. It keeps us from experiencing the fulfilling life that God intends for us. The result: you are eternally separated from God and the life He planned for you.

Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:2



JESUS **RESCUES** YOU

Sin does not stop God from loving you. Because of God's great love, He became a human being in Jesus Christ and gave His life for you. At the cross, Jesus took your place and paid the penalty of death that you deserve for your sins. Jesus died, but He rose to life again. Jesus offers you peace with God and a personal relationship with Him. Through faith in Jesus, you can experience God's love daily, discover your purpose and have eternal life after death.

1 Peter 3:18, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Romans 5:8



WILL YOU **TRUST** JESUS?

God has already done everything to show you how much He loves you. He offers you fulfillment and eternal life through a relationship with Jesus. This involves agreeing that you are sinful, accepting God's forgiveness and turning away from your sins and toward God. You choose to trust Jesus when you believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and surrender your life to Him. Are you ready to place your trust in Jesus?

Romans 10:9-10, John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8-9

DESIGNING A **HUDDLE**

1. INTRODUCE

Establish the **BIG IDEA**
Question | Story | Definition

2. EXPLAIN

Explain the **BIG IDEA** through Scripture
Point them to Christ

3. ILLUSTRATE

Bible story
Life example
Sports example

4. APPLY

“HEAD, HEART, HANDS”
What do you want them to **KNOW**?
What do you want them to **FEEL**?
What do you want them to **DO**?

RESOURCES:



THEME
HANDBOOK



THE
CORE



E3
PLAYBOOK



CORE
VALUES

EXAMPLE OF A HUDDLE MESSAGE

INTRODUCE | IDENTITY

QUESTION: “What is the definition of identity?”

When someone asks you ‘What’s your identity’ what comes to your mind?”

DEFINITION: “Identity is who or what a person or thing is.”

You have an identity as an individual player | This team has an identity as a whole

“Knowing your identity in sports is important but knowing your identity in life is vital.”

EXPLAIN | GALATIANS 2:20

Paul has a new identity in Christ.

He was once a self-righteous persecutor of the church, but God saved him.

You too can have a new identity in Christ

Don’t allow your sport or your sin to define you.

Turn from your sins and trust in the person and work of Christ today!

ILLUSTRATE | SPORTS STORY

Olympic diver Steel Johnson testimony:

“I went into this event knowing that my identity is rooted in Christ and not the result of this competition.”

APPLY | HEAD, HEART, HANDS



HEAD

“I want you to know that if your identity is in sports, it will fail you.”



HEART

“I want you to feel the freedom that comes from playing sports when you know that your identity is in Christ.”



HANDS

“Let sports be what you do, not who you are.”



THUMBS UP

BEFORE the first huddle, have the coach **ANNOUNCE** that the huddle is not mandatory.

FIND FCA Staff or a Qualified Volunteer to fill in when you **MISS A HUDDLE**.

TOUCH BASE with **FCA STAFF** at least once every two weeks for an update (prayer/concerns/praise)

EMPOWER trusted athletes to **TAKE PART** in the huddle (prayer, scripture reading, testimony, etc)

Use **WISDOM** when calling for a **RESPONSE** to faith in Christ.

Have a plan for **EFFECTIVE FOLLOW UP** after a **PROFESSION OF FAITH**.

ENSURE they have a **HOME CHURCH** and a Bible. Contact the church.

Use **SCRIPTURE IN CONTEXT** for each **HUDDLE**.

Point them to **CHRIST** in every **HUDDLE**.

SHARE the **FOUR** at least once during the season.

SEEK to keep the huddle at or under **10 MINUTES** unless the coach specifies otherwise.

SEEK opportunities for 1 on 1 discussions and **DISCIPLESHIP**.

CONNECT athletes to the **LOCAL CHURCH**.

Stay in **CONTACT** with the coach through the season for **PRAYER** and **ENCOURAGEMENT**.



THUMBS DOWN

AVOID denominational **TOPICS**; focus on Christ. (Example: *CCS references, speaking in tongues, healing, prophesying and baptism.*)

BAPTISM outside the church has become more popular in the social media age.

**This should only be done when*

- 1)** The athlete initiates
- 2)** The local church has been contacted and is supportive
- 3)** The baptism is not publicized as an 'FCA' baptism.

NEVER criticize poor **PLAY**.

Never **SECOND GUESS COACHING** decisions.

Never **COMPLAIN** about **OFFICIATING**.

NEVER spread **RUMORS** about firings, suspensions, etc

DON'T steal athletes from **ANOTHER** local church.

Don't **PESTER** a **COACH** on gameday.

CHARACTER COACH **CHECKLIST**



COMPLETE VIP QUALIFICATION

REVIEW THE CHARACTER COACH PLAYBOOK

CONNECT WITH FCA STAFF

> Locate a team needing a character coach.

CONNECT WITH THE COACH

> Build a relationship and establish expectations for the team huddle.

ESTABLISH THE SCHEDULE

> Talk with the coach about the day of the week and time for the huddle.

> Have a plan for attending practices and games.

> Select a curriculum and have a plan for the playoffs.

COMMUNICATE WITH THE COACH

> Communicate with the coach weekly for areas of emphasis and team needs.

COMMUNICATE WITH FCA STAFF

> Communicate with FCA staff bi-weekly for any updates and needs.

MANDATORY REPORTER

> If a student shares about an abusive or illegal situation it must be reported to the proper authorities.