



Week One: Own It

Every Person a Player, Every Member a Minister

Objective

Read this Call to Action from Pete at the start of your Core Group meeting.

"You are living at the end of the second decade of Chi Alpha but we have not always looked like this. You may have heard the stories, but XA started out with a pizza party bust and only two girls as members for our President and Vice President. Our first year, we only had around 15 students. Look around on a Monday night. We've grown a bit. This isn't because of me and Amy. This isn't because of the length of staff meetings or our messages at retreats. This is because of students just like you. First years that looked at their core group leaders and said "they have blessed me. It's time for me to bless others." I am blessed as director of this fellowship because our students OWN IT. They aren't content being receivers. They want to share and teach and expand the love of Christ and they act on that desire daily. Every year, each new generation takes up the place of those who have graduated and carry on the vision. They sacrificially love, mentor and disciple other students in the ways of Christ and leave behind a legacy of Christ-like followers. Will you rise up, take the baton which bears the fingerprints of student generations before you, and carry it forward for the cause of Christ at UVA? The call has now come to you."

- Pete Bullette

The goal of this weeks' study is for everyone in Chi Alpha to "own" the fellowship by embracing their own active role in continuing the dream of a spirited and deep Christian community.

Opening Questions

1. How has Chi Alpha changed your life since entering college?

Read Acts 6:1-7.

Body of the Study

<http://www.youtube.com/user/jaa5f>. In the passage we just read, men were called to step up into an area of ministry where there was great need. These were men who were members of the church, well equipped for the work, and ultimately willing to meet the need presented to them. Through being men of the Lord in the Church, equipped by the Spirit, and willing to serve, a key ministry continued.

We, as Christians, are a body. We are a team. The triune God is like our coach, and we are daily back out on the field. Think of the UVA Cavaliers. They are men who belong to a body, are equipped to play, and are willing to battle it out on the field. Sometimes they win the game, sometimes they lose, but always they are evaluating their methods and making changes in practice so that when the time comes for the next game they can improve. But are we as Christians evaluating our actions and improving? Let's look at a few potential situations that we definitely want to move away from in game play:



Scene 1: The Coach _____. (Plays Alone.)

Imagine, the whole team busts out of the locker room and onto the field, gets all warmed up, and now it is time for kick-off. The other team lines up to kick the football off to find out that the only person on the field to receive the ball is the coach standing way down there by himself. So they kick-off and then all 11 of them come barreling down the field with no one to block them and the coach in their sight. Meanwhile the team has taken seats in the stands and watches and routs on the coach.

Scene 2: The Players run onto the field, but stay in the _____. (Huddle.)

The team comes rushing out on the field and the opposition is waiting and waiting and they never come out of the huddle. They are discussing the play, making sure they know the play, making sure everyone is comfortable with the play, but never leaving the huddle to run the play.

Scene 3: The Team lines up--but they have no _____. (Equipment.)

The team takes the field, goes to the huddle and calls the play and then goes to run the play and see that they have a 300 pound lineman in front of them and then that they don't have any equipment on while the other team does—no helmet, no pads, no cleats, etc.

Scene 4: Coaches equip the players and they take the field and win!

Scenario Questions

Look at Scene 1.

1. What does this look like in the context of the Church?
2. What can we do to make sure that our coach (God) is not playing on the field alone?
3. Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10, 1 being letting the coach play alone all the time, and 10 being that you never leave the coach alone on the field.

Look at Scene 2.

1. What does this look like in the context of the Church?
2. What can we do to make sure that we prepare in the huddle but also make it onto the field?
3. Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10, 1 being never leaving the huddle and 10 being that you are both well-prepared into the huddle and make it onto the field.

Look at Scene 3.

1. What does this look like in the context of the Church?
2. What can we do to make sure that we are fully equipped? (Hint: See Ephesians 6:11-17.)
3. Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10, 1 meaning you lack all equipment on the field and 10 being that you are fully equipped.



Key Thought: God has designed you to get in the game and make a significant contribution--one of meaning, value, and eternal consequence.

Application Questions

1. Why did the twelve need to appoint others to look after the Hellenistic widows?
2. What do you think it would look like at UVA if every man and woman of God took up a ministry need?
3. What do you think keeps people from getting out of the huddle and being a part of ministry?
4. Do you believe that God has a specific place for you that fits in His plan for His Kingdom? What ministry do you believe God has designed for you?
5. Is there anything holding you back from getting involved in that ministry? (time, fear, lack of training, apathy, other)
6. How can our core group own the whole fellowship and not just each other?

Key Thought: When you get involved in ministry, you are not helping the pastor "do his ministry." The pastor is helping you do your ministry - fulfilling the Great Commission.

Spiritual Exercise

As an individual, isolate one area you need to be equipped in and focus during the next week on becoming more equipped in that area. (Hint: Look at the armor of God in Ephesians 6.)

As a Core Group, come up with a way to serve a need in the fellowship or your community this week.

Memory Verse

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last--and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." John 15:16.





Week Two: Own It

Who, me? You have to be kidding!

Objective

The objective of this study is to help us rise above the objections we have to working where God has called us to.

Opening Questions

1. Review: "Every member a minister"; 4 scenarios of the football game.
2. Talk about your experience this past week equipping yourself for service and going out onto the field to proclaim the name of Jesus through words and action.

Read Exodus 3:1-4:17.

Moses' call was to bring the people out of slavery of Egypt into the Promised Land. Our call is to bring the people out of slavery to sin into the fullness that God has for them. The end result of both is "worship of God."

Moses' Objections to the Call

Objection 1: Exodus 3:7-15. God said get in the game; I want to use you. Moses said who am I?

It is interesting that Moses didn't raise another issue: The feasibility of organizing, equipping, and sustaining such a massive escape.

The underlying issue for Moses in this statement is inadequacy - we can see that Moses had been prepared for this since birth by growing up in Pharaoh's house, but he still felt inadequate. Some of the most prepared people sit on the sidelines but won't participate because they still feel inadequate.

We must know and understand that once we are saved the goal of the devil is to keep us from being fruitful. So if Satan can make you feel like you can't do anything for God, he is keeping you from interfering with his work.

What was God's reply to this excuse? I will be with you (vs. 12). This is the key - God working through us - the treasure that we have in the earthen vessels!

Objection 2: Exodus 4:1-9. What if they don't believe me?

Moses wanted to play the "what if" game. Many times we need to step out in faith and not always have to know how every detail is going to work out.

The underlying issue with this objection is fear of failure and/or rejection and lack of faith.



What was God's response to this objection? Miracles!

God was communicating that His power would be with him to make him successful in fulfilling this destiny. Now we are even luckier because the Holy Spirit lives *inside* of us.

Objection 3: Exodus 4:10-12. But I'm not the right guy for the job!

"But I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

This time, the underlying issue for Moses was that he lacked the right personality. Moses did not have overwhelming charisma and, in the Egyptian culture, eloquence was very important. (Some say that Moses must have been a stutterer, but it may just mean that he wasn't eloquent in their language).

What was God's response? I made the mouth, I will help you speak.

The gifts of speech, sight and hearing are from the same Lord who was sending this hesitant leader. God has the power to make someone deaf or blind, or to heal the deaf or blind.

Objection 4: Exodus 4:13-17. Moses said choose someone else.

Even though God is addressing all of Moses' concerns, we see that there is one objection yet left. Moses really did not want to do it. This may have been apathy. It may have been that he didn't trust God to follow through.

Whatever the reason, Moses' fear of stepping out into the path planned for him led to Aaron having to step up. If we refuse to work, God will take the blessing that could have been ours and let someone else have it by taking our place - Aaron (the Levite) would receive the honor of leading the priesthood. So when we want God to use someone else we are forfeiting God's divine blessing.

Do you trust God's plan? Do you trust God to follow through with His promises?

Application Questions

1. What are some inadequacies you feel when looking at stepping into a ministry for the Lord?
2. When are some times that the "what if" game has left you standing on the sidelines?
3. Has there ever been a time where you have seen something that needed to be done, but wanted someone else to do it?
4. What do you think is the best way to overcome:
 - a. Objection 1: Who Am I?
 - b. Objection 2: the "What If" game / Fear of Failure
 - c. Objection 3: "I'm not the right kind of person!"
 - d. Objection 4: Please choose someone else.



Spiritual Exercise

Have an extended prayer time in which you ask for God to reveal where He is calling you to work. Confront your objections to this call and ask that He would be with you in rising up!

Memory Verse

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

