

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2019
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Unit 12, Session 4

Point 1: Use the *Think-Pair-Share* technique.

Begin by talking about the single-minded devotion of an Olympic athlete and his or her goal of not only competing but winning at the Olympic games. Everything they do is focused on that endeavor: what they eat, how much they sleep, how much they train, what they sacrifice, etc.

Then provide the following instructions: “Now pretend you have been selected for the Olympic team for the sport of <insert an obscure competition like archery or badminton>. You have a year to get yourself ready to compete against the best in the world. **Think** about what would have to happen in your life to get to the point of being a world-class <insert name of obscure sport> competitor.”

Lead group members to each **pair** with one person and then to compare ideas about what would someone would need to do in order to become a world-class competitor in their given sport. Then have 2-3 pairs **share** what they discussed.

Raise the following questions to drive home the point: “How hard would this kind of training be? Wouldn’t you want to hit the snooze button? Eat a donut? Give up when the work got hard?” Allow time for the group to offer feedback.

Then make the connection to Point 1 clear to the group: “That’s why it’s so important for us to make the choices in our lives that refresh, renew, and draw us into our devotion to God.”

Point 2: Illustrate the point with a TV commercial.

AT&T several years ago came out with a commercial called “Close to Home—It Can Wait,” which talked about the danger of distracted driving. The NHTSA reported that more than 3,000 people were killed by distracted driving in 2017: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving>.

Distracted driving happens when we take our eyes away from the road and instead give our attention to something else (e.g., phone call, text, car audio settings, etc.).

The AT&T commercial *can* be difficult to watch, so use wisdom in deciding whether or not to show the clip or just talk about it (46 seconds):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hI-AbPnaZBA>

Make the connection with this session: “Solomon’s decision to embrace false worship was rooted in his taking his eyes off his call from God and his devotion to Him. Disaster doesn’t happen because we set out for it but when we allow other things to grab our attention. For Solomon, his consequences were that he would lose the legacy of a united Israelite kingdom.”

Point 3: *Demonstrate how choices affect others.*

Ask the following question: “When you go to McDonalds, what do you expect to eat?”

Respond to the question with the following data: “The history of McDonald’s is ‘Over 99 Billion Sold,’ but they also have a number of famous failures that stand out as costly mistakes.” Share the following failures:

- Arch Deluxe debuted in 1996 with nearly \$100M in marketing, promotional, and developmental costs;
- McPizza in the 1980s took too long to cook and tasted awful;
- McSpaghetti;
- McLobster sandwich; and
- McLean Deluxe (made with lean meat and seaweed)

Make the following connection to the session: “A lot of these are almost punch lines for jokes, but at the time they were extremely costly for the company and in some cases people lost their jobs, even those who weren’t involved in the decision process. Foolish choices often have a ripple effect. Solomon’s would affect his family and ultimately his country. Our foolish choices not only affect us but also our families, churches, and communities.”

[Source: Kim Bhasin, “12 McDonald’s Menu Items That Failed Spectacularly,” Business Insider, August 30, 2011, <https://www.businessinsider.com/failed-mcdonalds-items-2011-8>.]

Teaching Tip of the Week

The remedy for foolish choices isn't *only* to make good choices. It's to enter into a right relationship with God. Ensure that you avoid making this session seem akin to works-based salvation in its content. Keep group members' attention on the gospel. Only a relationship with God through Christ can help us to make right choices for the right reasons with the right kinds of motives. You might wish to highlight Micah 6:8: "Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God."