

Super BIG Sunday

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” - 1 Corinthians 9:25

Main Point: We can be victorious in running the race of life for Christ

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Recall one of your favorite Super Bowl memories (the game, a commercial, a party, etc.) and share with the group.

What sports, if any, did you participate in while in high school or college? What was your favorite part about it? Least favorite part?

It's easy for us to sit on the sidelines or on our couch at home and yell at players and coaches in the Super Bowl when things don't go well for our team. But put yourself in the players shoes and think about all the time and energy and effort they have put into playing this game. Years of hard work and discipline have culminated in that moment and for 60 minutes they have a chance to etch their names in history. When we apply the same winning discipline and strategies to our life of faith we have an opportunity to make an eternal difference and etch the names of our family, friends, and neighbors in the book of life!

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Paul shares the formula for winning a life with Jesus means:

1) **DEVELOP A WINNING ATTITUDE . Read 1 Cor. 9:24.**

Have you ever been involved in a race or a sporting event in which you had a losing attitude? How might this affect the psyche of the team or players? How could it affect us as believers or as a church?

Do you believe we have the power to make a difference in our neighborhoods, community, and the world? What kinds of ministry can we get involved in as a group to make that a reality?

Are you more enthusiastic about your favorite college team or about your relationship with Christ? What steps can you take this week to cultivate a passion for seeing the lost found? Read of Paul's enthusiastic attitude in **Acts 20:24**. What would it look like for you to have the same attitude?

2) **COMMIT TO A WINNING DISCIPLINE. Read 1 Cor. 9:25.**

Athletes don't just show up on game day and win. They prepare to win day in and day out. What kind of spiritual disciplines are you, or should you, participate in to prepare your heart and mind each day? Where do you need improvement?

Read Hebrews 12:1. What are some things the author points out are necessary as we discipline ourselves to win for Christ? What kind of things might hinder us from staying disciplined?

Living a spiritually disciplined life doesn't sound like much fun, but what benefits or rewards are possible in the race and at the finish?

3) **EXPECT A WINNING FINISH. Read 1 Cor. 9:26-27.**

What big finishes have you seen in sports? What was special about it?

What would a winning finish look like for you and your family? What about our church or your group?

Have a volunteer read **2 Timothy 4:6-8**. What does Paul mention is in store for those who "keep the faith?" Why do you suppose Paul considered this a winning finish?

Apply It:

Where are you expecting God to work in your life and the lives of your loved ones? What must you commit to praying for if you are going to finish strong in life? Winning in this life as a Christian isn't like winning in the world. Where do you need to discipline your heart and mind to win for Christ?

Pray:

Lord, you have given us opportunity to see lives changed and homes restored. We pray for the resolve of a winning discipline and we anticipate a move of your Spirit as we are obedient. God show your power and unending grace through each of us here as we strive for BIG things in Your name! Amen.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

March 18th - The BIG Serve (Prayer walks, street clean up, Yard work for disabled, Music outreach)

April 1st - Easter Sunday (VillageKids Choir singing)

April 22nd - BIG Tent Revival

May 13th - Mother's Day: Baby Dedication, VillageKids Choir singing