

# HEAD COACH

## UNIT 2

You and your students  
are children of **GOD**

He is  
**CHEERING**  
for them and for  
**YOU.**

**CHAMPIONS**  
believe this,  
even when no  
one else does.

"Let the little children  
come to me, and do  
not hinder them, for  
the kingdom of God  
belongs to such as  
these."

Mark 10:14

## DEAR TEACHERS,

We pray that God blesses each one of you as you serve Him and minister to children around the world. You are making a difference, and changing lives for eternity!

We have a surprise for you. You may think you signed up to be a Sunday school teacher, but your job description has now changed to COACH! That is right, this year we will be studying the Bible with a boxing theme and we hope to have some fun with sports.

Beloved teacher, start right now! Be a coach instead of a teacher, and it will help inspire you to care deeply about each student in your class, and their progress as they strive to become a champion.



We will be studying the fruit of the Spirit. However, we are not only looking at the fruit, but also at the many sins of our flesh that fight against the fruit of the Spirit. Your goal is to help your students become champions. To do this, they need to not only memorize the memory verses and learn the Bible stories, but they also need to put the fruit of the Spirit into action in their everyday lives. This is a much harder challenge for you as coaches.

Using the boxing theme, when your students are in your Sunday school class, let us imagine that they are in training. They are working out, and learning more about God and learning how to fight against sin. Your church therefore, is the training center.

When your students are out in the world, they are actually "In the ring!" This is where they will actually fight against their own sinful desires. Their homes and schools, therefore, are the actual competitions and boxing matches. This is because at church, we are all good at pretending and giving the right answers. Please do not let any child think he has won a match because of his memorization or learning at church. That is training. The real fight is in their life. They can win matches if they put into practice the lessons during the week.

Your final job as their coach is to reward them and encourage them when they succeed. Prepare some awards to be able to hand out. Give them a hug or a special shout of encouragement for each "punch," round, or match won. The behavior you reward will be the behavior you receive as your students strive to please you, their coach.

We hope you can have a good time dressing as a coach, decorating your class as a sports training center, and having some fun award ceremonies. Success in living the fruit of the Spirit will come, just as it does in sports, to those who are willing to work harder than anyone else. You CAN inspire your students to work hard and become champions. Just believe in them when no one else does, and watch God do miracles in their lives!

May our Lord God inspire you, as you take on this challenge of coaching your students in the fruit of the Spirit. We pray you break all limitations put on Sunday school teachers, and become a real coach in the lives of your students.

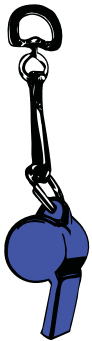
# COACHES



## SMALL GROUPS

Create small groups of 3-7 children. Each small group needs a coach. The coaches do not need to attend class every week, but need to check in with their students or "athletes" each week. Assign one of your main leaders to be the head coach and to organize and inspire all the coaches.

Divide your class into small groups to help your students actually do the assignments during the week. Most Sunday school programs are at church, and do not require homework during the week. However, your students cannot "knockout" sin in their lives by learning about it. They must actually get "In the ring" and fight the actual sin that they face during the week. Honestly, without someone checking up on them, this will be almost impossible to do. Please do not "trust their word" and accept when students say they did an assignment. If you become lax about this program, you will be training your students to tell you lies. However, just imagine with me that if you can actually coach your students, and track that they are doing the homework, you will see real change in their lives. In just 1 year, you can turn their lives around! Your students will not be memorizing the fruit of the Spirit, but will be actually learning to LIVE it!



## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COACHES

### COACH:

- Coach 3-5 children.
- Meet with students for 5 minutes before and after class each week to discuss assignment and encourage them to become champions.
- Call/text students weekly to remind them of the assignment. (Suggested=Tuesday)
- Call/text students a second time weekly to get report of assignment done. (Suggested=Friday)
- Keep track of assignments done for children in small group and report to head coach weekly.

### HEAD COACH:

- Meet with all the coaches for 5 minutes before class each week to discuss assignment and encourage them to coach faithfully their students.
- Call/text coaches weekly to remind them of the assignment. (Suggested=Tuesday)
- Call/text coaches a second time weekly to get report of assignments done. (Suggested=Friday)
- Keep track of assignments done for all students.
- Host monthly inspirational meetings for coaches and their families.



## RECRUITING

It may sound like a challenge to recruit more leaders so that you have enough coaches for small groups. However, this does not need to be that difficult. Here are some ideas to make finding coaches EASY:

- Ask coaches to serve for only 1 month. Each month covers one fruit of the Spirit. When asking adults for their commitment, if you only are asking for 1 month, many will be more willing to sign up. After the first month, if you make it easy and fun, they will want to sign up again!
- Allow coaches to attend church as normal, but arrive at church 10 minutes early to meet with their students. Your coaches could attend your Sunday school class only once during the month, and the other weeks attend church as normal with the adults.
- Text students instead of calling. Help your coaches set up automatic texts for the whole month, so that they can easily be in contact with their students. Do not forget that instead of traditional calling, you can also use Facebook accounts, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.

- Create a place at church for coaches to store a few items. In order to look "sporty" your coaches could wear sport caps or have whistles and water bottles. Instead of having to remember each week to bring these items, allow them to keep them at church. This way your coaches can wear their regular church clothes, and just pull on a few "sport" items to look like coaches.
- Make the monthly meeting for coaches extra inspirational, so that they want to continue participating in the program as the year progresses.
- Allow for larger groups if necessary. (With the help of group notifications on Facebook, it would not be that difficult for someone to coach 10 students.)



## AWARD CEREMONIES

A very important part of being a coach is helping your students feel like winners. This means you need to define what behavior you are looking for, and reward that behavior. We recommend rewarding the students when they have done the homework assignments, where they put the lesson into action during the week. Attendance and memorization are "training" and doing the assignments during the week would actually be the competition. Encourage your students that training is very important if they want to win. However, the real world competition is where they actually do win.

One idea is to have an award ceremony at the end of each month, when you finish studying each fruit of the Spirit. For example, LOVE has 5 weeks of study. Those who did the assignment at least 3 weeks could win the bronze medal, silver for 4 weeks, and the gold medal for all 5 weeks. You could adjust how your students win the medals after the first month, as some villages or areas of town will need more challenging assignments than others will. Some zones will be more evangelistic, and you will need easier assignments so that they stay encouraged and want to continue with your class.

At the end of the year, have a larger award for those who won several awards throughout the year. This could be a trophy or a nicer medal. Make the awards even more special by giving them to your students on stage in front of the adults in church!

Smaller weekly rewards:

- Hugs
- High-fives
- Stickers on their shirt
- Stamp on a hand
- Small candy

Larger rewards at end of month:

- Award ceremony with gold, silver and bronze medals given to the children. (Bronze for 3 weeks of assignments finished, silver for 4 weeks, and gold for 5 weeks. Alternatively, you could give bronze for 2 punches, silver for 3 punches and gold for 4 punches per week.)
- A party at your home
- Certificates
- Something given in large church in front of the adults
- Trophies



## INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

The main job of the head coach is to keep the coaches motivated. One important way to do this is to host a monthly inspirational meeting. You can provide a meal, pray together, look at sports data and see how it can apply to our Christian lives. In addition, you can check out Olympic athletes or watch an inspirational sports movie together with popcorn or other yummy foods. Discuss with your coaches the idea that if it was worth it for the athletes to work hard, then isn't it worth even more for us to work for spiritual and eternal gain?





Each coach helps 6 children for 5 weeks for the fruit of Love. Record their progress here. Make photocopies as needed.

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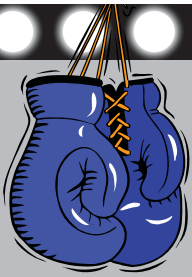
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# CHAMPIONS

## PATIENCE

# 1

### PATIENCE VS IMPATIENCE

Bible story: The golden calf  
Exodus 32



#### MEMORY VERSE

"Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience." Colossians 1:11

# 2

### PATIENCE VS SORROW

Bible story: Job suffers with patience  
Job 1-2



#### MEMORY VERSE

"My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life." Psalm 119:50

# 3

### PATIENCE VS PRIDE

Bible story: King Nebuchadnezzar  
Daniel 4



#### MEMORY VERSE

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride." Ecclesiastes 7:8

# 4

### PATIENCE VS ANGER

Bible story: David, Nabal and Abigail  
1 Samuel 25



#### MEMORY VERSE

"In your anger do not sin"[a]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry..." Ephesians 4:26

# 5

### PATIENCE VS ENTITLEMENT

Bible story: The manna and quail  
Exodus 16:1-18



#### MEMORY VERSE

"You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!" James 5:8-9



## HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (IN THE RING)

Discuss last week's homework assignment, and give your students the following week's assignment. They are located in the student books and on the match cards. Remind your students that only those who do the assignment can become champions. None of us will become a champion from attending church or memorizing the Bible, but in LIVING it! We recommend you create small groups with coaches to help the students track their assignments. (See more in small groups section.) Doing the homework assignment once during the week will obviously not "knockout" that sin, just as one punch will not knockout an opponent in boxing. Using this analogy is helpful to show the students that if they actually want to become champions, they need to "throw more punches" during the week. Have your coaches keep track of how many "punches" the students achieve during the week and encourage competition. Each "punch" is an instance where they did the assignment during the week. To make the punches more fun, use these four different types of punches: jab, hook, cross and uppercut.



## HOMESCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS

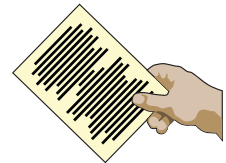
### 1: IN THE RING

Write in the dirt something God has done for you in the past, then mark that spot with a rock. Do one at church, each student making their own special spot, and do another at home during the week. After you have marked your spot with a rock, share with someone else what God did.



### 2: IN THE RING

Write a thank you to God over something where you suffered. Try to say as Job did, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. May the name of the Lord be praised." Share with others in class your testimony if you can.



### 3: IN THE RING

Do some activities to humble yourself. You could give someone your place in line, avoid watching a TV show where the characters are full of pride, give up your spot on stage or in front of others, or allow others to be correct.



### 4: IN THE RING

Purchase a few small items to give away as gifts. Whenever you become angry, give an item to the person you are angry with. Try to stomp out your anger by giving small gifts to people, and watch your patience grow.



### 5: IN THE RING

This week you are owed nothing from anyone. Every time you want to ask for something, stop yourself. Each time you successfully stop yourself from asking for food, favors, time, or help; you win against this sin.



## MATCH CARDS

Pass out the attendance reward, a card with the week's match fight on it. Encourage your students to attend all year, and collect all the cards! These cards are available to download and print very economically. You can also use the cards to play a memory game, matching the assignments to each sin.



6

## KINDNESS VS COMPARISONS

Bible story: King Saul and David  
1 Samuel 18:5-16



### MEMORY VERSE

"Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else..." Galatians 6:4

7

## KINDNESS VS DECEIT

Bible story: Peter denies Christ  
Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75



### MEMORY VERSE

"I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites." Psalm 26:4

8

## KINDNESS VS DETACHMENT

Bible story: Ruth and Naomi  
Ruth 1:8-22



### MEMORY VERSE

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." Proverbs 3:27

9

## KINDNESS VS MALICE

Bible story: Esther saves her people  
Esther 3-5



### MEMORY VERSE

"I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another." Romans 15:14

10

## GOODNESS VS APATHY

Bible story: Sodom and Gomorrah  
Genesis 18:16-33



### MEMORY VERSE

"Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty." Job 6:14

11

## GOODNESS VS EVIL

Bible story: Herod and John the Baptist  
Luke 3:18-20, Matthew 14:1-12



### MEMORY VERSE

"Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Psalm 34:14

12

## GOODNESS VS SELFISH AMBITION

Bible story: Tower of Babel  
Genesis 11:1-9



### MEMORY VERSE

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." Philippians 2:3

13

## GOODNESS VS IMPURITY

Bible story: Joseph and Potiphar  
Genesis 39:1-21



### MEMORY VERSE

"With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith." 2 Thessalonians 1:11



## 6: IN THE RING

Give yourself 20 small balls at the beginning of the week. Each time you find yourself comparing yourself to others, take away one of the balls. This includes facebook or other online applications where we often compare ourselves to others. If you need to, go off facebook for the whole week.



## 7: IN THE RING

This week, go to someone that you have lied to, and tell them the truth. Apologize for the lie, and ask them to forgive you. Each time you return and tell the truth will be another major win against this sin.



## 8: IN THE RING

Find someone to help, especially if they are “not your problem.” Give to a homeless person on the street, or maybe a child at school needs a new pencil or eraser. Make sure they are not related to you, and that you have no responsibility or need to help them.



## 9: IN THE RING

Protect someone this week from someone who is being mean to them for no reason. As we protect someone else, we will also combat this sin in our own hearts. Risk your own reputation to protect someone else.



## 10: IN THE RING

Pray and ask God to increase passion in your heart this week. Look for something you can do for others to increase your passion for others. Visit a ministry and learn about what they are doing, help out in a shelter that feeds others, or watch videos about needs around the world. Participate where you can.



## 11: IN THE RING

Look around you for the presence of evil, where someone is hurting another for apparently no reason. Find a way to intervene this week to protect the innocent person. Maybe helping them walk a different way home from school, providing a lunch, or having a group of 4 join you in walking with them.



## 12: IN THE RING

Do nothing this week to increase your fame or popularity. Each time an opportunity arises, turn it down. As you do this, you will be punching down this very sneaky sin.



## 13: IN THE RING

Take care of your heart this week. If something has been done against you, remember that they are the ones that sinned, not you. Say in prayer every day, “I am pure before you, God”. If you have done something against someone else, apologize to that person and to God. Then you can also pray, “I am pure before you, God.”



Each coach helps 6 children for 4 weeks for the fruit of Joy. Record their progress here. Make photocopies as needed.

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Each coach helps 6 children for 4 weeks for the fruit of Peace. Record their progress here. Make photocopies as needed.

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"Hello"  
in Hindi

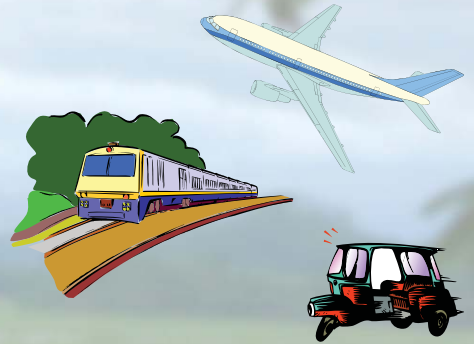
नमस्ते

"Thank you"  
in Malayalam

നന്ദി

நல்ல

"Very well" in Tamil



Chennai, Tamil Nadu

## 1 in 5 children in the world are in India.

Imagine living your whole life without having known a Christian or hearing the name of Jesus Christ. That is the normal life for millions of children in India. They have many needs because of the lack of education, the oppressive caste system, and child exploitation—all of which give us an idea of some of what those children are facing.



*What can we do to make a difference?*

We can make a difference by introducing a child to our Lord Jesus Christ by providing a VBS exactly like the one your church is doing. There are churches opening up in all of India, but many have a need for resources and training.

Together we can sponsor a VBS to evangelize their community. The ministry, "Children are Important" is currently translating Sunday School and Vacation Bible School material into eight different languages of India. Now the children of India can hear the message of salvation while having a good time and attending a VBS.

When you participate in the "VBS Without Borders", the children of your church can learn more about the children of India, while your donations, along with the donations of others, will help make the VBS available to thousands of children throughout India.

And in that way, we are changing the world!

*Why?*



*Because "Children  
are Important"*

*See the Missions Packet  
in the VBS, "Destination  
without limits"*



Churachandpur, Manipur



Trivandrum, Kerala

Head Coach Champions  
English



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