

Week 1

V is for vision

People say vision is the ability to see something before it exists. Pastor Graham had a vision in 1997 when we purchased the land that this church and our baseball fields sit on. Back then, it was simply a cow pasture. But Dr. Graham had a vision that the Lord laid on his heart. He was able to see this church and these fields and knew that someday these would be powerful tools for reaching the world for Christ.

Vision is also incredibly important for baseball players. Many say hitting a pitched baseball is one of the most challenging things to do in all of sports. Not only are you hitting a small, moving object with a round stick, often times the ball is not only coming at you but changing planes as well. If you have good vision, you are able to pick up the spin on the ball and have an idea of where the pitch is going. This recognition is sent to your muscles and you are able to hit the ball.

Another perspective on vision is the ability to see things from God's perspective. The Bible says that the world judges the outside of man, but God judges the heart. That means that the world judges people based upon how they look, what their jobs are, where they live, etc. These things are meaningless in the eyes of God. God judges us by the condition of our heart.

When we start to see things from God's perspective it changes the way we interact with people. God loves everyone and so should we. We should not be judgmental of others if they do not have the things we have. Like the song says, "If we could see through His eyes".

Maybe it is time to get your vision examined. Ensure that you are viewing the world through God's perspective.

Prayer:

Lord please help me to see things through your eyes. Help me to share your vision for my life and how I can further your Kingdom. - Amen

Week 2

I is for integrity

What is integrity? Integrity is defined as steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code; in other words doing the right thing in every situation regardless of the outcome, even when we are alone.

Proverbs 20:7 states "The just [man] walks in his **integrity**: his children [are] blessed after him."

Integrity is the only thing we have to offer. If you cheated on a test at school and never got caught, would you turn yourself in? If you would turn yourself in even though you would receive an "F", then you have integrity. Another example would be if you were with a group of friends who were teasing a less popular student. Would you stand up for that person even if it meant that you would be teased as well?

There was a man in the Bible named Job. He was full of integrity and God blessed his life richly. One day Satan challenged God. He told God that Job would curse God if he was no longer blessed. God knew Job was a man of integrity and up to the test. God allowed Satan to take away Job's health, wealth and family. For several days Job was in intense pain, but he never cursed God. He always acted with integrity even when his friends gave him bad advice. In the end God not only restored his health and his family, he gave him even more riches than he had originally. Integrity is important to God.

Integrity is hard. It takes guts, but it is worth the investment.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to act with integrity no matter the situation so that I may bring glory to you. - Amen

Week 3

C is for compassion

What is compassion? It means to care about other people. As Christians, we are called to serve others through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is through this service to others that they realize how much God loves them.

It is human nature for people to only care about themselves. Caring about others and serving others requires effort. It requires sacrifice. Sometimes it is hard, but it always returns a bigger blessing on us than on those we are serving.

The Bible speaks many times of Gods compassion towards us. We do not deserve his favor. God has so much compassion towards us that he sent his only son, Jesus, to die for our sins. How much compassion do you have for other people? Do you care about other people, your teammates or people who are less fortunate than yourself?

Do you represent the kind of compassion God has for us?

Prayer:

Lord, teach me to be compassionate. To care about and love others the way you love me. - Amen

Week 4

T is for tenacious

Tenacity is being ruthlessly committed. This is a great characteristic for a ball player. A tenacious individual is one who never gives up. One who works diligently until the goal has been accomplished.

When you think of tenacity, you should think of a Pitt Bull. Now these dogs are mean. They go after things with every bit of strength and energy they have. They never give up no matter the circumstances.

People who are tenacious are also fearless. If you truly want to have VICTORY in your life, you will need the kind of courage that produces faith. The Bible speaks of faith as small as a mustard seed that can move mountains. Faith is believing without seeing. It is by faith that we accept Jesus as the Son of God and our Savior.

What are you tenacious about in your life? Is it serving God? Serving others?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to have a tenacious spirit to serve you. Give me the courage to proceed on faith alone. - Amen

Week 5

O is for optimistic

What is optimism? Optimism is having a positive attitude and faith that situations will work out for the best. No matter how tough things get, you are confident that all will work out to the Glory of God. The opposite of optimism is pessimism. Pessimistic people believe if anything can go wrong, it will. These types of people are not very happy or trustworthy.

John, the disciple, was an optimist. No matter where he was, in prison or in exile, he never got sad and never stopped worshiping God. He had complete faith and trust that God would work things out according to his will.

The Bible says God will provide for our every need. It also says God loves us and wants the best for our lives. If we believe these truths from the Bible, do we ever have a need to be anything but optimistic about things that come our way? Things will always work out according to God's will. Now it may not be the way we want things to turn out, but we need to have faith knowing God is in control.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to have an optimistic outlook on life no matter my circumstance. -
Amen

Week 6

R is for Rewarded



After the 2004 Boston Red Sox won the World Series, every player and others associated with the organization received the greatest reward to be offered in baseball, a World Series ring. This is one of the most sought after pieces of jewelry in all of sports. Some of the greatest players to ever play the game ended their careers without ever receiving one.

What a World Series ring symbolizes is the reward for the effort and commitment put forth during the season to win ballgames, improve individual skills, to play together as a team.

We all like rewards. It is a good feeling for someone to recognize when we do good. Often times, the best rewards come after we have worked hard at something or accomplished something others said could not be done.

The Bible says we will all receive rewards in heaven based upon how we lived our life here on earth. How committed we were to serving God and others. How well we used our spiritual gifts for furthering the Kingdom of God. The best part is that we will be able to lay these rewards at the feet of our Lord Jesus when we get to Heaven. While these things will get us rewards in heaven, they are not good enough to even get us to Heaven. There is only one thing that can accomplish that; Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer:

Lord, Thank you for sending Jesus to secure my eternal salvation. Please allow the Holy Spirit to work in me so I can accomplish all you have called me to do while on Earth. May I productively use all of the gifts you have given me to accomplish your work on earth. Thank you Lord. - Amen

Week 7

Y is for Yearning

Yearning is to have a strong desire for something. As athletes, we should yearn to be champions. Yearn to improve everyday.

As believers we should have a yearning to be like Christ. Recently, a phenomenon called What Would Jesus Do (WWJD) swept the nation. People were all wearing bracelets with the acronym WWJD. What does WWJD mean? It means to view situations as Christ would. It means to be more Christ like in our dealings with either people.

As we have learned throughout this season, WWJD also means we are to be more compassionate, have integrity in all our dealings, to be optimistic that things happen for the benefit of His Kingdom.

As Christians we should also have a yearning to be with Him in heaven and on earth. While we are here on Earth, we should be consistent with our prayer life, quiet time and Bible study.

Time spent with Him will allow us to better answer the question WWJD.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to yearn to be like you, to view things through your eyes. - Amen

Week 8

Conclusion

We have been studying VICTORY all season. How we can have victory in our lives. There is only one thing that will give us the ultimate victory and that is accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Jesus was the ultimate Victor. He had victory over death. After he died on the cross and was laid in the tomb, he arose 3 days later. He is no longer dead, but ALIVE and sitting at the right hand of God.

Have you accepted Christ as your personal savior? If not, today is your opportunity

Note to Coach: This would be a good time to share your testimony.

I can tell you what the Bible says about how you get to Heaven with 1 word. That word is FAITH

F is for FORGIVENESS

The Bible says we cannot have eternal life and heaven without God's forgiveness.

"In Him [meaning Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" – Ephesians 1:7a

A is for AVAILBIBLE

Forgiveness is available. It is **Available for ALL**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" – John 3:16

But it is NOT **AUTOMATIC**

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven.

I is for IMPOSSIBLE

It is impossible for God to allow sin into heaven. This is because of what the Bible says about the nature of God

God is:

- Love (John 3:16)
- Just – "for judgment is without mercy" – James 2:13

But man is sinful.

"For ALL have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God" – Romans 3:23

So the question is, how can God allow a sinful person into heaven where God allows no sin?

T is for **Turn**

What does it mean to turn? Turn means to repent, change direction.

Turn from something: Sin and Self

"But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" – Luke 13:3

Turn to someone; trust **CHRIST** only

The Bible tells us that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried and that He rose on the third day according to the scriptures" – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him for the dead, you will be saved." – Romans 10:9

H is for **HEAVEN**

Heaven is eternal life

HERE

"I have come so you may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" – John 10:10

HEREAFTER

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" – John 14:3