

# COMPETING WITH COMPASSION

Balancing the Desire to Win with Concern for Opponents' Souls

BIBLE STUDY

## 01 OBJECTIVE

To explore how to best work with the natural tension between the desire for physical dominance and winning in sports and the call to exhibit love, compassion, and concern for the spiritual well-being of opponents.

## 02 OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, as we delve into the complexities of competition and compassion, we seek Your guidance and wisdom. Help us to navigate the desire to win with a heart of compassion for our opponents' souls. **AMEN.**

## 03 BIBLICAL REFLECTION

Read **MATTHEW 22:39 AND 1 JOHN 4:7-8**. Reflect on the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves and the nature of God's love, understanding that it transcends competition and extends to all people.

## 04 DISCUSSION

- Share personal experiences of times when, or if, you've ever felt conflicted between the desire to win and dominate physically, while also showing compassion towards opponents or feeling concerned for their souls.
- Discuss how the coaching you've received calls for you to compete and perform at your best physically. How does this honor Jesus?
- Review your motivations for physical dominance and winning. How can you channel these desires into positive actions that reflect the love of Christ?

## 05 APPLICATION

- Identify specific actions you can take to demonstrate compassion towards opponents, such as showing respect, offering encouragement, or praying for their salvation, success, and well-being.
- Trust that the coaching you've received will allow you to perform at your best physically and honor Our Lord.
- Commit to approaching competition with a balanced perspective, recognizing that while winning may be a goal, the ultimate victory lies in honoring God, showing love to others, and yearning for the salvation of all who participate.

## 06 CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, we thank You for the opportunity to compete and strive for excellence in sports. Help us to do so with genuine compassion, care, and concern for our opponents' souls, recognizing their inherent worth and dignity as Your children. Our Father, who art in heaven... **AMEN.**