

COACH EVERY WILLING MAN TO LIVE VICTORIOUS IN CHRIST

*We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom,
so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

Colossians 1:28 NASB

8 Tips to be a Great BattleZONE Coach

1 Pray—Prayer is power from on high. Commit to praying to connect with God as a minister of grace. Pray for each of the men you are discipling by name. Pray for God's will to be done in them as well as for protection from the enemy. Pray for the men to continue to be a reproducer of disciples in their homes, community, and within the body of Christ.

2 Keep the Goal in Mind—The goal of discipleship is not knowledge transformation, but rather R.I.G.-4 Discipleship (see below). Each man is expected and commanded to make disciples of Jesus Christ, not for themselves or for BattleZONE Ministries. Let the men know that when they finish the BZTC it is only half-time, and their training is not complete until they have disciplined others using this tool. R.I.G.-4 Discipleship stands for:

- a. **Relational**— Since true discipleship happens in relationship, you must facilitate a deep brotherhood with the men through self-disclosure or practicing James 5:16.
- b. **Intentional**— There are certain biblical skills men should be able to demonstrate in order for them to become better followers of Jesus Christ (i.e. how to study the Bible in context).
- c. **Generational**— The Apostle Paul taught Timothy to teach God's truths to others who can then pass the same truths to others (2 Timothy 2:2). The measure of effective discipleship is if it reaches to the fourth generation.

3 Get Real—I believe the most important quality of a ministry leader is to be real. True depth of relationship comes from self-disclosing risky information to each other. You must set the pace of self-disclosure by risking your true challenges both past and present. As you get real with the men it will encourage them to do the same, killing the deception of identity management men have become so familiar with. Self-disclosure begets self-disclosure which in turn manifests into deep brotherhood and trust. A leader's willingness to be authentic in his brotherly relationships invites honesty and develops trust. This takes purposeful effort on the leader's part to be vulnerable and to self-disclose their challenges as they too pursue Christlikeness.

4 Focus on Training not Knowledge—By spending time with the BZ worksheets and exercises you will facilitate the experiential aspect of application expectation. The plays are important to build the foundation of knowledge, but the goal is to get the men to process and apply the knowledge. I suggest that you keep the plays for last and complete the worksheets up front to allow adequate time for demonstration and coaching to take place. Remember the BZ Discipleship Training Model: Teach, Show and Coach men to follow Jesus, so they can be Released to Reproduce Christlikeness in others.

5 Be a Player Coach— When you disciple men in relationship, you too will be disciplined. Most leaders remain only in that role of leading and do not engage in open heart relationship with the men they are teaching. Instead, leaders ought to take on the dual role of a coach/teacher and a disciple. As leaders engage in discipleship they too are being disciple only IF they open their hearts as one also needing transformation. However, when a leader only takes on the role as the teacher, he closes his heart off from being disciplined. Again, your job is to facilitate the material and coach when needed, and not to teach. You will know you are successful when the men talk more than you do.

6 Keep it Moving and Balanced—Some men are more verbal than others. It is important that you set the tone by telling them that everyone will get equal talk time. As a coach/captain you should keep the discussion moving and keep the men on task.

7 Prepare—Joe Paterno once said, "The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital." Before each training session it is your responsibility to prepare by reviewing the BZTC material. The 11 Week DVD set is also a great tool for preparation prior to your time with the men. On the day of, or the day prior to the session I highly recommend watching the DVD to assure you are on track with the heart of the plays. Remember, that you are a player/coach.

8 Big is NOT Better—Since discipleship is relationship, your group size should only be as many as you can develop a deep relationship with. For most men this is no more than four. I do believe in one-on-one discipleship, however I see a great benefit to the team approach that allows men to experience the power of transparency in a group.

*True Discipleship
is not evidenced
by knowledge but
by reproduction.*

*BattleZONE Ministries
2857 Beverly, Clovis CA. 93611
Tel: 559-322-6054 | Fax: 559-297-8710
www.BZG4.org | info@BZG4.org*



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MINISTRIES, INC.**

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