

***A Note to Coaches:
What is Honor for an Athlete?***

If you hear someone say the word “honor,” you might think of military funerals or the Olympics. The receipt of “honors” is sometimes an academic goal and can become central in the arena of sports. Whether this recognition takes the form of being named to an all-tournament team in high school, or winning the coveted Heisman Trophy or a Super Bowl ring, this goal can become a major motivation for an athlete.

Honor is also a concept that Scripture values — one that we all need to understand, in order to become people who serve God before a watching world. For the purpose of this study, we will define honor as “the recognition that God, your Creator and Lord, is sovereign over all aspects of your life; and also the discipline by which you treat others as more important than yourself.”

This study of honor will help you to lead your athletes to consider the true meaning of honor, how and why we honor God, how we honor others, and who and what our culture honors. You’ll study examples of individuals who lived honorable lives, and you will dwell on God’s promises to those who truly honor Him. As a team, you will contemplate the relationship of honor to athletics, as well as prayerfully ask the Lord to develop the discipline of honor in each of you.

Coaches, you can use the words of John 7:18 as a reminder to direct your team’s pursuit of honor: *“He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.”* Consider posting this passage in a prominent place during your season, to help clarify your team’s purpose of living honorably before God and men. We will be praying for you as you lead your team in studying this important discipline of a life focused upon Christ!