

## **PRINCIPLE #2**

# **INSIDE GAME**

**God's Love Moves You from Fear to Freedom**

## **PRE-GAME WARM UP**

Read **Luke 15:11-32**

1. The younger son left his home to experience "life". What do you think he was looking for? Did he find it? Why or why not?
2. How did the father respond when the younger son came home?  
What do we learn about the father's view of the son as a result of his response?
3. Why was the older son angry?
4. Who can you identify most with in the story? Why?

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**Ask:** What motivates me?

**Read:** Luke 15:11-32 "The Story of the Defiant Sons"

**Theme:** God's love moves you from fear to freedom

**Live It:** Understanding your identity in Christ fuels an entirely new motivation for serving

What motivates you?

recognition

money

fear of failure

advocate

relationships

pride

jealousy

career goals

success

fame

coach

coworkers

accomplishment

anger

winning

friendships

### Luke 15:11-32

The Younger Son...

I. Motivated by \_\_\_\_\_. Looking for life \_\_\_\_\_ of his father.

A. The **pursuit** of a life independent of his father (v11-13)

B. The **result** of a life independent of his father (v14-16)

C. The **response** to a life independent of his father (v17-21)

The Older Son...

II. Motivated by \_\_\_\_\_. Looking for life by \_\_\_\_\_ for his father.

- A. The **pursuit** of a life of performance (v29)
- B. The **result** of a life of performance (v30)
- C. The **response** to a life of performance (v28)

The Father...

III. Motivated by \_\_\_\_\_ with his sons. Looking for \_\_\_\_\_ with his sons.

- A. The father **restores** his Pleasure-Seeking son (v20,22)
- B. The father **reminds** his Performance-Driven son (v28,31)
- C. Why does the father **do this** for his children?

**John 1:12**

**Romans 8:14-17**

### **Two Formulas for Your Identity**

1) World's Formula for Your Identity = Your Performance + Other's Opinions about You

2) God's Formula for Your Identity = What God Says about You

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LIVE IT

Occupation = Idol	Occupation = Opportunity for Worship
I must gain my acceptance by proving that I deserve it since my value is always earned, never given.	In Christ, <b>I am accepted</b> by God as a result of His grace toward me—never a result of works—so I do not need to work harder or prove my worth to anyone else. (Ephesians 2:8,9)
I am constantly weighed down by the pressure to perform perfectly, a bondage made worse by the fact that well-being of my athletes is dependent upon my success as a professional.	In Christ, <b>I am secure</b> because God is in control of the circumstances of my life even when things feel out of control, even when I'm not getting the results I had hoped for in my sport. (Isaiah 40:28-31, 1 Peter 2:18-23)
I must stay strong and live by my own power and strength at all times	In Christ, <b>I have the power of God</b> within me, and can turn to Him for courage, peace, patience, confidence, self-control and other strengths in any situation, whether in competition or in life. (Colossians 1:29)
I am aware of a sense of competitive loneliness in my field of work, sparked by various internal fears and insecurities—even though I am part of the sports medicine team. Deep inside I'm afraid that the only one who truly cares about the real me is the one looking back at me in the mirror.	In Christ, <b>I am never alone</b> because His Spirit lives within me and is a constant presence with me no matter what I deserve or how I perform. (1 Corinthians 6:19, Hebrews 13:5)
I may never be free from and may always be marked by the mistakes, wrong decisions and missed injuries throughout my career and beyond	In Christ, <b>I am completely forgiven</b> for every moral mistake (sins committed against a holy God that have eternal consequences—self-centeredness, dishonesty, doing harm, stealing, judging, hating, pride, etc) whether in the past, present or future, and I can live free from the burden of my own brokenness and imperfection, in both life and sports. (1 John 1:9, Matthew 5:21-28)
I am significant if I hold the head position as a sports medicine professional and praised for producing positive results	In Christ, <b>I am significant</b> because God gives me purpose that transcends my performance, a purpose that flows out of playing a role in His unfolding story. (Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 1:11)

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### **LIVE IT Part 2**

#### **IN CHRIST, I AM ACCEPTED**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

#### **IN CHRIST, I AM SECURE**

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. **Isaiah 40: 29-31**

Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer from doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.” **1 Peter 2:18-23**

#### **IN CHRIST, I HAVE THE POWER OF GOD**

“For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”

**Colossians 1:29**

#### **IN CHRIST, I AM NEVER ALONE**

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own.” **1 Corinthians 6:19**

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be confident with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” **Hebrews 13:5**

#### **IN CHRIST, I AM COMPLETELY FORGIVEN**

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9**

## IN CHRIST, I AM SIGNIFICANT

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” **Ephesians 2:10**

“In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all the things according to the counsel of his will...”  
**Ephesians 1:11**

## IN CHRIST, I HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.” **1 John 5:13**

## IN CHRIST, I AM SATISFIED IN HIM

“Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.” **Psalms 34: 8-10**

“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content in whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”  
**Philippians 4:11-12**

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### LAB REFLECTION TIME

**What is the question we are asking for this principle?**

- What motivates me?

**What is the main point(s) of this Principle?**

- Motivation, identity in Christ is the source of our motivation

### Discussion Questions

1. "Open mike" time . . . What is the Lord doing in your life so far this week? Who is feeling encouraged? Is anyone struggling learning and applying these principles?
2. How do you feel when you see an athlete you have been doing rehab with finally get back to going 100% on the field/court?
  - a. How should we react when faced with no recognition?
3. How should you act and/or feel when the athlete gets all of the recognition?
4. How do you keep yourself in check when it comes to seeking reward or approval from people?
  - a. How does this relate to the older son as an AT/SC?
5. Does pressure from your superiors or coaches cause you to make clinical decisions different from what is otherwise appropriate?
6. What is your motivation in sports medicine? Why? Is it eternal?
7. Let's talk about the use of focal points in your career...
  - a. Did any of you use a focal point this past year and how did this remind you of the spiritual disciplines in your career?
  - b. How do you maintain your "focal point" in your setting, such as the athletic training or weight room?

**“Identity in Christ is the source of our motivation.”**