

Principle #2

Teacher's Notes

Inside Game

God's love moves you from fear to freedom

What Motivates Me?

Principle #2: Inside Game

Teacher's Notes

Teacher note: In some places in the notes we give you big ideas to communicate, in other places we give you more details about what to say. The bottom line is that you are the communicator, so say it as best as you see fit. Teach well from your heart and not just from this script. You may use the illustrations we've included or you may decide to omit them. In other places, you may add illustrations or choose to develop a point further than what we've suggested. The talk should ideally run 35-45 minutes so adjust your additions/subtractions with that time guideline in mind. The times listed are just to give you an idea of your pace.

Review of Audience of One: *The question we asked yesterday was "Who or what do I worship?" We looked at service from God's perspective: to choose to worship God above all else; He is your audience; therefore you should serve and work with Him in mind...*

The question we are asking in this principle is "What motivates me?"

The title of this talk is "Inside Game" because we are talking about the mental part of sports and life, the game that happens on the inside of us in our heads, our hearts and in our soul. What we believe on the inside is what will motivate our actions and efforts in life and sports.

Introduction: Open with short video or story about good/bad motivations.

What motivates you? We have many different motivations that propel us through sport and life, some good, some not so good.

Recognition	Money	Fear of Failure	Advocate
Relationships	Pride	Jealousy	Career goals
Success	Fame	Coach	Co-Workers
Accomplishment	Anger	Winning	Friendships

Ask... *"If your motivation is up one day and down the next, how might that affect your performance as a sports medicine professional?" (You'll be inconsistent, you'll rise and fall with the circumstances, you'll need others to motivate you.)*

We need a motivation that is permanent, independent of our circumstances/performance to stay consistently motivated.

*Note that we are not saying these motivations are sinful in themselves. They may start as motivations to pursue good things, part of God's good created order like pleasure, money, or sex. But they get **distorted** by the sin nature and then become ends in themselves—they become like a god to us. It's our sin nature that twists the "motivation" and makes it worldly.*

Let's look at a story in the Bible about three people who had different motivations driving their life and the results of each.

Brief overview: *Jesus is speaking to tax collectors, sinners, Pharisees and teachers of the law. (Explain who these different types of folks are and how they view Jesus.) He just told two stories about a lost coin and a lost sheep. Now he is telling this parable about a father and his two sons. Think of the father in this story as God, our heavenly Father.*

Luke 15:11-32 (Read it or just summarize it if your audience has already read it during Pre-game)

Teacher's note: Beware of spending too much time on the sons and not enough time teaching about the fathers' response. A good time breakdown for giving this talk is to spend about 50% of your time teaching on the younger son and older son, and then spend the other 50% teaching about the father, God's love and explaining the charts.

6-7 min

3 min

The Younger Son:

1. Motivated by worldly pleasures. Looking for life independent of his father.

Define/explain what “worldly” means: things of the world, not of God, things that arise from sinful nature.

Teacher note: Remember to only briefly explain each of these A, B, C points below. Don't get bogged down here.

A. The pursuit of a life independent of his father (vs. 11-13)

He wants his father's inheritance early because he is too impatient to wait for his father to die, he wants freedom to do whatever he wants, he thinks he is missing out on something better away from his father. He is motivated to GET things (apply to sport: get the trophy, get the ring, get the money, get the fame)

What if your pursuit doesn't get you what you really want though? What would be the result...

B. The result of a life independent of his father (vs.14-16)

He ran out of money, wasted everything he had, he was starving, he was desperate- a Jewish boy feeding pigs- and he couldn't even eat their food. There was a famine in the land and no one gave him anything.

Teacher note: See Skye Jethani notes at the bottom of document for further insight into this part of the passage.

C. The response to a life independent of his father (vs.17-21)

He “came to his senses”. He got honest about his life-what he was going after didn't really satisfy. He was humble toward his father - no excuses, admitted that his plan didn't work. He knew his greatest need was to get back home and restore his relationship with his family

If you have been living life like this younger son, then what will it take to bring you to your senses? How will you respond when you realize that sports can not ultimately fulfill you?

We have two choices: either humble ourselves and receive God's grace and forgiveness as we find life in His presence, or keep fighting and try to find life/fulfillment apart from God and take the consequences.

The Older Son...

II. Motivated by self-righteousness. Looking for life by performing for his father.

“Self-righteousness” means totally confident in my own morality and abilities, smugly intolerant of the opinions and behavior of others. All I need to do is be better than you! No one starts off with self-righteousness as a personal goal, but when the desire to keep rules and regulations better than the person next to you becomes a driving motivation, then becoming a self-righteous jerk almost inevitably follows.

A. The pursuit of a life of performance (v.29)

To prove to his dad that he was good enough, he rehearses his resume of accomplishments: “All these years I've been serving you, doing the right things, I've never disobeyed.” He wants his father to thank him, throw him a party, celebrate; he's mad because he feels he deserves it as a result of his good behavior and hard work. His father's love and provision isn't enough. He wants something more.

B. The result of a life of performance (v.30)

Constant comparison with others. This older son compares his life of obedience and hard work with his younger brother's life of wasted decisions. He thinks he is more deserving than his younger brother. He is swimming in a pool of self-righteousness and judgment towards others.

C. The response to a life of performance (v. 28)

5 min

5 min

He is angry, bitter, stubborn and proud. Instead of calling him his “brother“, he says “this son of yours.” This older son has lost his joy and freedom in life, and instead has become a slave to his own work and performance because he thinks his acceptance and self-worth are tied to them. He has become so alienated and bitter that he is unable to enjoy the celebration of life with his father and brother.

If this son had been satisfied in his father’s love and provision, then maybe he would have been free to really enjoy his work, laboring hard and using his talents for a purpose other than trying to acquire self-worth, acceptance and love. He already had all that from his father, he just didn’t recognize it. If he had, he could have loved his work, instead of working to acquire love.

Most sports performance specialists are motivated like this older brother--they spend their efforts and energy working hard, doing all the right things trying to earn self-worth, favor, acceptance, attention, love, respect, affirmation, etc. “I’ve been working hard and doing my best, would someone please celebrate me.”

*The father’s love and provision wasn’t enough for this son. He wanted something more.
Why do you work so hard at your sport and what is it that you are looking for as a result?
Could God’s love and acceptance be enough to satisfy you?
Do you think it will ultimately satisfy you?*

Teacher’s note: Make sure you have enough time left to teach this second half of the talk and unpack it well.

The Father... *The father in this story represents God as our heavenly father.*

III. Motivated by his relationship with his sons. Looking for renewed fellowship with his sons.

A. The father restores his Pleasure-Seeking son (v.20,22)

The father was “filled with compassion” for his son. He has been waiting, looking, longing for his son, so he could give renewed life to him through restored fellowship. He ran to his son, which would have been highly unusual for a middle eastern father to do - the norm would have been for him to stone his son to death for his betrayal. But instead he treats him like royalty and throws a party in his honor. He restores his son because of his Identity as HIS SON.

B. The father reminds his Performance-Driven son (v.28, 31)

He pleads with him to come enjoy the celebration of renewed life in his brother. The father addresses this older brother as “my son”- reminding him of his identity as HIS SON. He also reminds him of his constant presence and total provision for his son – “you are always WITH ME and everything I have is yours”. He then reminds him that the wayward son is “this brother of yours” who has come back home again – the brothers need restored fellowship as well.

C. Why does the father do this for his children?

His sons had a misunderstanding of the effects of their relationship with their father, a case of mistaken identity. They were both looking for life and identity in all the wrong places. But the father loves his kids and certain things will always be true regarding their identity as his children, even if they should choose to forget or ignore those things. His love for them never changes. Their identity as his sons never changes. Some of you are tripped up by this talk of a father loving his children like this, because your experience of your father is so different- absent father, abusive father, demanding father, hard to please father, father who didn’t know how to show you love—but your heavenly Father is different in all the right ways.

Transition: Move from this story of a father and his sons to the bigger picture of God the Father pursuing all who surrender to Jesus.

God is a heavenly father and he is so different than many of our earthly fathers. We need to realize that our identity as God’s son or daughter changes everything. But how do you know if you are a son or daughter of God?

John 1:12- *To all who receive or accept Jesus, to those who believe in his name or trust in who He is and what He has done for us, He gives them the right to become children of God.*

Romans 8:14b-17- *“because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs -- heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”*

If God’s Spirit is living in us then he causes our hearts to call God our “Daddy”. He is the Lord who reigns over the universe, and at the same time our “Daddy” who individually cares for each of children. His Spirit gives us a sense of peace in knowing that we are his child. If we are a child of God, then we are an heir of God, meaning we get an eternal inheritance from God that starts right now, receiving all that he has for us on a daily basis. This is not something we can earn or work hard to deserve, but something we get simply by being his child and being in relationship with Him.

Evidence of our sonship to God is a willingness to be led by His Spirit in our moment-by-moment choices, even to suffer for being associated with His name and identified as His child. We will talk more about this in Principle 3. The Holy Spirit gives us freedom from fear, because now we are a son or daughter of the Lord and we don’t need to fear the kinds of things that people are consumed with. It’s not that we will never experience the emotion of “fear”; rather, because God is our Father we can always know that He is in control and all will be well. He is the only one we need concern ourselves with and if He says it will be alright, it will be alright! Philosopher Blaise Pascal suggested centuries ago that people have a hole in their heart that can only be filled with God. If we no longer fear being out of relationship or fellowship with our Father, every other possible “fear” gets minimized and defused over time.

This problem and its solution connect directly to our service and our lives as sports medical professionals. Some professionals work/serve out of a motivation to “get something” that they think will fulfill them (like the younger son), but work cannot fully satisfy the deep needs in our soul. Many professionals are motivated by a fear of failure, fear of not performing well, fear of not measuring up, driving them to be “successful.” But there is a big difference between serving not to fail vs. serving to worship, and serving for distorted motives produces a desire that never gets satisfied.

Fear and selfish motivation may spur us to work hard, but they can also rob us of the joy of authentically serving our athletes. How many of you are disabled from working/serving to your full potential because you’re trying to avoid possible mistakes and disapproving others? There is a better way! God wants us to live and work in the freedom of knowing who we are as His children, instead of trying to prove who we are to ourselves and to everyone else. When you begin to understand what Christ has done for you, that He has given you complete access to God the Father--then you will be freed up to enjoy your work instead of being a slave to it. You can enjoy working hard, fueled by a passion to serve for a higher purpose, which we will talk about in Principle 5.

If we could identify fully with what Christ says is true about us “in Him,” we would flourish internally both on and off the field of competition. We could experience the FREEDOM that He longs for us to live in. The problem is that we fail to live out our identity as a child of God and instead live consumed with trying to find our identity and the source of our worth or value from what the world thinks of us.

Transition: Talk about the difference in these two formulas for deriving your identity:

World’s Formula for Your Identity = Your Performance + Other’s Opinions about You

God’s Formula for Your Identity = What God Says about You

We need to shift our focus from listening so much to what the world tells us and listen more to what God says is true about us. This process never ends.

Teacher note: maybe explain what this looks like in your life right now, so the students hear a real world example.

5 min

So how does identity help motivate us in our profession and life? Think about some of the deepest needs we have as humans: a need for “identity” (knowing who I am), a need for “worth” (knowing I have value) and a need for “relationship/intimacy” (knowing I am loved or accepted). As deep needs woven into the fabric of how God created us, they motivate us whether we are conscious of them or not. We long to have them fulfilled and often organize our lives around their pursuit. Many things in life help us develop those needs and contribute to their fulfillment, including family, education, friends, marriage, career, and other aspects of human experience.

Our profession may meet these needs in part through providing affirmation, reward, relationship, purpose, and other components built into the sports medicine culture. However, a mistake we make as professionals is to demand that our job meet these needs **CONSISTENTLY** and **COMPLETELY**, satisfying our soul in a way our work was never created to meet. In having this expectation, we make our work into a god that takes the place of our heavenly Father, and we are doomed to experience deep disappointment as a result. Our profession can produce great joy and satisfaction, but it was never intended to meet the needs of identity, worth, and intimacy/relationship fully. Thus, we wind up in a horrible place: in bondage to our performance and to others perceptions about our performance.

Instead, the story teaches us that the father is motivated to meet those needs in us and to do it consistently and completely. Our heavenly Father wants to meet those needs based on His character and our relationship to Him—not on our performance. The father in the story welcomes home the wayward son and is gracious with the selfish son because of who HE is—their father—and because they are his sons, not because of what they do or don’t do! When these deep needs are being consistently fulfilled by God, our motivation to perform can become more intrinsic and consistent. Our new motivation becomes the fact that “I am HIS” instead of being “I am IT”. We can then do our work for the pleasure it was intended to bring instead of clinging to it as a life-source. Let’s release our profession from trying to meet those needs and instead enjoy it as a gift from the Father!

Teacher note: as you wrap up the talk make sure to emphasize the **FREEDOM** that we can experience in our profession and life as we find our identity in God and live it out.

And now at the end of this talk you want to make a **strong finish** all the way through the Live It page chart. This chart is the practical application of all that you just taught them for the last 40 minutes, so don’t fizzle out now. Make sure you highlight this chart/these verses as a great tool for them to be able to understanding who they are in Christ and how these truths can change the way they view life and their profession on a continual basis. These verses are the bridge to the lab, since the students will be focusing on one of these truths as they play the lab sport. Help them see the importance of this.

Optional text to set them up for chart: Romans 12:2 – *This list helps renew our minds and transform us.*

(Make sure you allow at least 5 Minutes for this transition and chart time. It’s very important for your audience to begin to understand their new identity in Christ. Emphasize that they will be using one of these truths during lab today or during their next practice, depending on your context.

Transition: Now mention the first point of the “World’s View of you as a Sports Medicine Professional” chart below on their “Live It” Page to help your audience see the contrast between what the world says and what God says.

The truths on this chart explain your new identity in Christ, if you are His son or daughter. You have the explanation on the first page and the Bible verses for each listed on the second page. This is your new resume for life. So you need to read these truths often (maybe one each day) and let them sink down into your heart, so that you really believe them and live them.

Right now I want you to take 3-4 minutes and look at this chart in detail and pick one of these truths to focus on today as we head out to the lab time. We will be asking you out at Lab time which one of these truths from this chart that you picked. Which one on this list grabs you and speaks to you right where you are at in life?

Teacher note: Give them several minutes to silently look at the list and choose one of the truths to focus on for today. Don’t rush this. Make sure they get time to look over the chart and begin to digest these truths.

Remember the one identity truth that you just picked so you can use it on the field during the Lab time today. We are going to be asking you which one you picked in the next 30 minutes.

Pray for them: that we would believe what God says about us, and live and play from this new motivation.

5 min

Teacher note: There are other important teaching points in the lab material for each Principle. So if you are not teaching a lab after each “classroom Principle”, then you may need to be creative in how to incorporate some of the practical applications from the lab notes, i.e. tell them about focal points and “Reset/Press forward” and have them try it during their next practice or workout session.

THE WORLD'S VIEW OF YOU AS A SPORTS MEDICINE PROFESSIONAL...	GOD'S VIEW OF YOU AS HIS SON OR DAUGHTER...
<p><i>I must gain my acceptance by proving that I deserve it since my value is always earned, never given.</i></p>	<p><i>In Christ, I am accepted 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></p>
<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p><i>In Christ, I am secure 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></p>
<p><i>I must stay strong and live by my own power and strength at all times</i></p>	<p><i>In Christ, I have the power of God 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></p>
<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p><i>In Christ, I am never alone 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></p>
<p><i>I may never be free from and may always be marked by the mistakes, wrong decisions and missed injuries throughout my career and beyond</i></p>	<p><i>In Christ, I am completely forgiven 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></p>
<p><i>I am significant if I hold the head position as a sports medicine professional and praised for producing positive results</i></p>	<p><i>In Christ, I am significant 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)</i></p>

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**

Younger son commentary from Skye Jethani:

“When Christians in wealthy, developed countries read the Parable of the Prodigal Son we usually emphasize the personal responsibility of the younger son. He found himself in deplorable conditions because he ‘squandered his property in reckless living.’ He should have been wiser with his money and more disciplined with his desires, we say.

When Christians in under-resourced, developing countries read the same story, however, they are more likely to focus on a detail that we overlook. ‘A severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.’ The son’s plight was not merely the result of his irresponsible behavior, but also the circumstances of his location that were beyond his control.

How we diagnose the son’s problem is critical because it implies the remedy. If we see the story as being about morality and personal responsibility, then the message is to be more disciplined—a message that resonates in our hyper-individualized, moralistic Christian communities. However, this misses the entire point Jesus is seeking to convey.

The greater problem is not the son’s morality but his locality—he is in a famished country far away from his father’s house where no one cares for him. When we recognize this part of the story the problem is no longer just a lack of responsibility, but the son’s distance from, and severed relationship with, his father. Therefore the moral of the story is not ‘be more self-controlled to avoid hardship’ but ‘stay connected to the father who loves and cares for you.’

At times we are all undisciplined. We are all irresponsible, unwise, or reckless. As harmful as these actions may be, the greater harm is abandoning our heavenly Father. Sin is a problem, but the problems only compound when we sever our relationship with the one who loves us most—even in the midst of our sin. We foolishly think we must choose between being his son or being a sinner. In truth, we are always both. Whatever sin you find yourself in today, your heavenly Father can handle it. Don’t run away.”

Older son commentary by Skye Jethani:

“The climax of Jesus’ parable occurs when the father finally speaks to his older son. This is the first, and only, time in the story the father speaks to one of his children directly—and it’s what Jesus’ audience would have been waiting for. ‘When are we going to find out why this Jewish father is acting so strangely,’ they must have wondered?

The older son had just delivered his angry defense. He had always obeyed his father and served him faithfully, he said, and therefore deserved a party far more than his immoral younger brother. The older son believed he’d been cheated by the father. We read the son’s diatribe as an expression of his anger, but Jesus’ audience would have seen something more.

The older son is indicting the father on the charge of being dishonorable—a terrible accusation in a shame-based culture. Surprisingly the father never addressed the accusation. He did not defend himself or give any validation to the charge of being dishonorable. Nor did he affirm his older son’s years of faithful obedience.

Instead Jesus cut to the heart of the entire story. ‘Son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me.’ The father is asking, Have I not been enough for you? Were you just working to receive a party or to earn your inheritance? Have you found no joy in being with me all of these years? What brought the father joy was not the older son’s service, but simply his presence—having his son with him. This is what the father cared about most, not his property or which son receives more of it. While the sons were fixated on the father’s wealth, the father was fixated on his sons.

Like the older son, we get distracted by a great many things, some good and many bad, and we seek our fulfillment in lesser joys. Our heavenly Father does not get distracted. He is fixated on his children, and longing for us to discover the joy that is found only with him.”

Transition to Lab/Reflection Time.

Principle # 2: Inside Game

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?
3. How should we react when faced with no recognition?
 - a. 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 AT? 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.”

Principle Breakdown Grid #2- Inside Game

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 as God's child is the source of our motivation

If the audience only gets one thing out of this principle what should that be?

- God desires for us to experience His love and be satisfied in Him.
- If we choose to find our identity in Christ, then we will begin to live in freedom and experience joy in work and life.

Why is this the Biblical text for this principle? How does it illustrate the point?

It is often used to point out that God is gracious to the wayward person. But usually the focus is on the need for the wayward person to change. Our focus is more on the extravagant, consistent love of the Father for his children and His desire for them to fully experience that love. This passage gives us a glimpse into two of the main reasons that people tend to stray as they look for life.

What should be your first words to your audience as you introduce this Principle?

Quick review of Principle One and then lead into an illustration to expose that we are all motivated in different ways and that not all motivations are good.

What are we asking the sports medicine professional to consider changing about the way they do sport?

We want to help expose the professional's selfish motivations for service/life and help them understand how to replace those with a Godly motivation. Not to be motivated by the worldly pleasure or selfish performance but by the joy that comes from being constantly loved by God.

What is the most challenging thing about teaching this Principle?

Making sure that their identity in Christ is not just an afterthought at the end of the talk. Save enough time and energy to adequately unpack God's love for them and their identity in Him. Don't spend too much time talking about the younger and older sons wrong motivations.

How do you go about picking examples to use for this Principle?

Highlight the fact that motivation in life and their career is crucial. If we have bad motivations, our actions will reflect that. Try to use examples that illustrate how this text relates to sports medicine.

Who is your audience and how can you connect the material with them?

If there are non-Christians, make sure they understand that the "Identity in Christ" truths are only for those who are followers of Christ and not for non-believers.

Closing: Transition to the Live It Chart and give them several minutes to digest the chart and have them pick one identity truth from the chart to remember, so they can focus on it during lab time today.