

THE PRIZE: Under Pressure

Interactive Bible Study

Student's Guide

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HOW THE SESSIONS CAN BE USED

This interactive Bible study is designed to be used by amateur and professional sports people, sports fans and those caught up in the excitement of the World Cup. It can be used in a variety of different contexts, including one-to-one discipleship, sports teams, youth groups, church cell, home or Bible study groups.

HOW THE SESSIONS ARE STRUCTURED

WARM-UP

Soccer players know the importance of adequate warm-up regimes as preparation for successful competition. This section is designed as a warm-up for further discussion. A simple question that encourages participants to share their own personal experience is designed as a warm-up for further deeper discussion. Leaders are encouraged to begin each session in prayer and/or with a time of praise and worship in song, depending on the context.

TEAM HUDDLE

This section of the study allows you to reflect on and discuss with other members of your group what the featured players have shared.

COACH'S CORNER

Coach John Wooden's teams won 10 NCAA men's basketball championships at UCLA. He was described as the "The Greatest Coach Ever." Although he appreciated the tributes and the honor of being called the greatest coach ever, he felt uncomfortable with the title. He was eager to point people to the One he called the greatest coach ever – Jesus Christ!

In this section, participants will be encouraged to interact with what the true Greatest Coach Ever has to say though His training manual, the Bible. Each session will focus on one person whose story is recorded in Scripture, and whose life has something to teach us about the theme under discussion. Here you will discover encouragement, receive inspiration and be challenged as you live your life "Under Pressure."

WARM-DOWN

Soccer players know that a gentle warm-down aids recovery and helps future performance. The warm-down session provides space for you to quietly reflect on what you have learned, and to bring it to God in prayer.

EXTRA TRAINING

An appropriate, structured and disciplined training regime is essential if a soccer player is to enjoy success on the field. Spiritual growth is also enabled by adopting an appropriate training program. Spiritual disciplines like the regular reading of Scripture, prayer, meeting with others in community for worship and teaching, memorizing Scripture, giving, serving and fasting, are all aspects of God's training regime for His disciples, and are essential for spiritual vitality and health.

In this section of the study, you will be encouraged to undertake a number of activities during the week that will encourage you to continue to connect with God around the issues discussed, and to put into practice what you have learned.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR – Bruce Nadin

Bruce is a husband, father, church leader, preacher, life coach and sports pastor; and best of all, a child of God by adoption.

Bruce led a growing church and was chaplain to Leicester City Football Club in the UK before moving with his wife and youngest daughter to the most beautiful city in the world – Cape Town, South Africa, in 2009.

He presently co-leads a church plant in one of Cape Town's most vulnerable communities, where amongst other responsibilities he runs a community soccer program and a guys' discipleship group. He is also life coach and chaplain to elite soccer school, ASD Cape Town, where he has the privilege of serving a talented group of mainly young African footballers. In addition, he mentors a small number of South African Premier Soccer League players and is encouraging the growth of player-led "Born to Play" Bible study groups on pro teams across the country.

He is passionate about serving and empowering the poor and fatherless in the name of Jesus, mentoring young leaders to realize their God-given talent and placement, and raising up a generation of pro-soccer players who love Jesus, have been filled with the Holy Spirit and have been equipped to be missionaries in their sphere of influence.

In his spare time he can be found running (very slowly) around the streets and enjoying the vineyards, mountains and beaches of Cape Town. He will endlessly regale you with stories of the world's greatest soccer team, Leicester City (stop laughing at the back!), and the fact that he has been a U2 fan since 1980 and owns every album they have ever released!

Bruce would love your feedback if you have used this Bible study or if you have questions relating to it. He can be contacted by email at brucenadin@gmail.com.

Bruce can also be followed on Twitter - @brucenadin.

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All Scriptures are from the New Living Translation unless otherwise stated.