

CHAMPION

VICTORY BEGINS IN THE HEART

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE STORY

IN THE SUPERCHARGED WORLD OF DIRT TRACK RACING,
A SINGLE MISTAKE CAUSES THE LIVES OF TWO MEN TO CHANGE FOREVER.
ONE MUST FIGHT FOR HIS FAMILY, THE OTHER MUST FIGHT TO FORGIVE.

Dirt track racer Sean Weathers was at the top of his game... an unstoppable career, scores of fans, and an adoring daughter. When a rivalry with another racer turns personal, the ego that propelled him to success causes a tragedy, sending his life into a tailspin.

Jack Reed was attempting to make up for past mistakes. He had prospered as a businessman but failed as a family man. In a sudden turn of events, his chances for reconciliation are ripped from his grasp.

Sean and Jack's lives collide, and an unexpected bond forms between them. Working through a painful journey of healing together, they each learn about second chances and the true freedom only forgiveness can offer.

We've designed this discussion guide to build awareness for **CHAMPION** and help create momentum to get men, families, and churches to theaters on **May 19, 2017**. We can't forgive, love, lead, father without first understanding our own need for a 'Champion'... without understanding our own need for forgiveness. God is the Champion! It is our desire to see relationships restored through Champion's powerful message.



FORGIVENESS

ONE MUST CHAMPION TO FORGIVE

Ephesians 4:29-32, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

You’ve probably heard the saying, “Everything rises and falls on leadership.” Most people would agree with that statement. However, would most agree with, “Everything rises and falls on forgiveness?”

Children live in the moment and a small offense remains that way—small. Yet as children grow older, the list of the hurts and disappointments grows longer and our ability to hold grudges grows stronger.

Champion is a movie about forgiveness. Many of us need help in dealing honestly and fully with any unforgiveness that may be in our hearts. If you don’t need help today, you may need it tomorrow. An unforgiving heart will always look backward and justify not moving forward in a relationship. This heart stores up resentment and marinates in bitterness and the poison spills out onto others.

Forgiveness is at the core of our relationship with God. Forgiveness is the way for a heart grounded in the unconditional love of God to respond to the imperfections of others. It’s not forgetting or dismissing the impact of a wrong. It’s choosing not to let the wrong dominate the future of your life and relationships.

We cannot avoid being hurt or wronged by others. Therefore, we cannot avoid the need to forgive others. God is sovereign over the hurts others inflict on us and will use them for redemptive purposes, if we let him.



FORGIVENESS

Watch this movie clip and discuss these following questions.

MOVIE CLIP (LOGAN CONFRONTS JACK)

1. “Forgiveness doesn’t change the past, but it can help rewrite the future.”
Has God revealed any lack of forgiveness in your heart?

Pastor and author, Crawford Loritts, says, “When you’re born, you look like your parents. When you die, you look like your decisions.” Ultimately, forgiveness comes down to a choice. It is a choice that God both commands and enables. We can not forgive anyone else without fully realizing the power of the forgiveness God has given us. It’s in our understanding of His forgiveness, that allows us to love each other and to allow His love and forgiveness to overflow in us.

2. How have some simply refused to make that choice?

Read the following Scriptures (Matthew 6:14-15, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, and Matthew 18:32-35) then answer this question, what can we expect if we refuse to forgive those who sin against us?

TURN TO GOD IN PRAYER

Lord, thank you for forgiveness. Help me be a champion for forgiveness. Reveal in me anyone that I have wronged so that I can go and ask forgiveness. And, Lord, reveal to me anyone that has hurt me so that I can forgive them. In Jesus Name, may I choose the freedom that forgiveness offers, victory over vengeance.



FATHERHOOD

ONE MUST CHAMPION FOR FAMILY

Malachi 4:4-6, “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

God the Father is serious about fatherhood. The last verse in the last book of the Old Testament is Malachi 4:6. Then, four hundred years of silence. Not another word from the Father.

Still, one of the biggest challenges in our day is the issue of fatherhood. There are too many fathers that do not realize how important they are to their children. They are living life in the fast lane, leaving their families behind.

Being a father isn't easy. Just like racing, there are many twists and turns. If men let go of the wheel, many women and children experience the tragedy of what happens as things spin out of control.

The way a man leads his family is the true test of maturity. God desires that fathers love and lead their children well. With all of the noise in this culture, children need to hear a clear and consistent voice from their fathers through affirmation, affection, and appreciation.

Being a father that glorifies God doesn't just happen.



FATHERHOOD

Watch this movie clip and discuss these following questions.

MOVIE CLIP (SEAN OPENS UP TO REX)

1. What are your initial thoughts on fatherhood when watching the clip?
2. We have a generation of men who don't understand how much they mean to their children. Do you think Sean understands how much he means to Gracie?
3. As Sean opens up about how his father rewarded him as a little boy with the bottle caps of beer, it is obvious that he has been wounded by his father. How could he get moving down the track toward victory as a father himself?
4. A Pit Crew helps the driver by making adjustments to the car on race day. What is your church doing to help fathers become champions? Or, what could it start doing?

TURN TO GOD IN PRAYER

Pray for the fathers in your life and church. Ask God to use His Word to encourage and empower fathers to walk with a right relationship with Him. Pray that men who have been wounded by their fathers would take the necessary steps toward forgiveness. Then, pray that your church offers ongoing training and discipleship on fatherhood.



THOSE IN NEED

ONE MUST CHAMPION FOR OTHERS

James 1:27 “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

God is clear in this verse on what pure religion looks like to Him. It involves helping to take care of children that are in distress as those in foster care are. The reason most kids are in foster care are circumstances beyond their control, but that impact them harshly in having to attend a new school, living in a new home or group home, etc.

In the movie *Champion* we show the positive impact of a Christian family that brings Gracie into their family and shows her unconditional love and acceptance while her father goes through some tough times, a drug issue from being in an on-track accident.

So how we help to “look after orphans” says a lot about ourselves and our view of obeying God. When we help those who have no way to pay us back like an orphan or offer something in return, we are truly doing what Jesus said in Matthew 25:35 “For I was hungry and you gave me to eat...” Jesus says each one who does these things will be rewarded by Him!



THOSE IN NEED

Watch this movie clip and discuss these following questions.

MOVIE CLIP (CHRISTINE ENCOURAGES GRACIE)

1. Do you currently serve orphans or those in distress?
How can you be involved in foster care for your church or family?
2. Do you have any families like the one in Champion that are involved in Foster Care in your church ?
3. Who else are those in distress in your community?
How is God raising up His people to help with these people?

TURN TO GOD IN PRAYER

God show us your heart for those in foster care in our area. Show me how to get involved to show your love to those in distress. Help me to treat people like I am ministering to you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



LIFE'S CHALLENGES

ONE MUST CHAMPION FOR THE FUTURE

Psalm 12:1, “Help, LORD, For the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.”

Flags are used in auto racing to signal very important messengers to the drivers. A yellow flag in auto racing means officials have called a caution period because an accident or debris on the track makes driving conditions dangerous.

The conditions many young men face today are dangerous. Debris is everywhere. The path of life many men travel is littered with their parents' broken marriages. Having nowhere to turn to find relief for their pain they find themselves in bondage to a multitude of addictions. The ever-reaching tentacles of pride, insecurity, fear, and unbelief plague their minds and emotions while they contemplate what it means to be a man.

When drivers see a yellow flag, they know they must slow down to line up behind the pace car and drive cautiously around the track until the track has been cleared. Champion the movie is the yellow flag waving in our day. Many of the issues that plague men today are in this film. What you see on the screen, you'll see in society.

Look carefully and you'll find men neglected and often rejected in every sector of society, even in the church. There is no pace car out in front to lead the way. Pray and ask God to move in the lives of men everywhere because when men win, everybody wins.

Dr. Johnny Hunt, pastor of FBC Woodstock, GA has said repeatedly at his men's conferences that, “Men are the untapped reservoir of useful energy for God's Kingdom.” That's not just a statement, that's the truth. Yet, deep down, men want to be more than who they have become. They are just having a hard time finding help.



LIFE'S CHALLENGES

Watch this movie clip and discuss these following questions.

MOVIE CLIP (JACK FORGIVES SEAN)

1. In the clip, Sean thanks Jack for giving him a chance to be a better man, a better father. Are there men in your circle of influence that need the same chance? If so, write their names down and pray for them right now.
2. Men in our day face challenges in their own hearts and homes. Many are turning to destructive behaviors. What can you do to help men win? What can your church do to help men win?
3. When the Word of God and the Spirit of God go to work in the heart of a man he will respond. What are some ways you can be sensitive as to how to help men when they do encounter God?

TURN TO GOD IN PRAYER

Lord, use Champion the movie to help men win. No man should have to walk through trials and tribulations alone. Use this movie to encourage women, families, and churches to seek You and Your Word for a movement of men that transforms families and churches to the end of the earth.