



"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing."
(Galatians 2:20-21)

PRE-SEASON TRAINING SESSIONS 1 & 2: CHALLENGE TO READ GALATIANS

After very little introduction, days 1 and 2 of pre-season opened in prayer and then we were off and running. Three groups – 3 stations: A game field, a fitness station and a skills station. This was a great relief from the heavy burden caused by Hurricane Harvey. At last – the kids were active and among friends. Players had “come home” to their HCYA Hurricanes family – a safe place – an awesome place!
Twenty five minutes per station allowed for a few minutes at the end to “circle up” and reflect...



Practice

Activities were designed to be a fairly low key introduction to pre-season training. We recognized the need for fun and fellowship after the trauma of the past week. The groups comprised of all ages and abilities, and the tremendous thing about the Hurricanes is that (hopefully) no one felt left out. Older, more experienced players were encouraged to mentor the younger, less experienced players. In turn, the younger/less experienced within the group were urged to seek advice from the more “seasoned” players within HCYA



Perspective

- Clearly, Harvey caused much devastation, heartache and pain. And, as usual when “bad things happen to good people” the big question is asked, “WHY?” Why now? Why me? Why did God allow (cause?) this? And yet the same question is rarely asked when life is good – when success comes our way – when everything is falling into place. Strange, isn’t it, how we can be so quick to ask God “Why?” during the storms of life with a shaking fist, but feel no reason to pose the same question and be in awe that He would choose to bless us in so many ways?
- Harvey taught us that “stuff” just doesn’t matter when lives are at stake. Possessions can be replaced. Even our most treasured items (photographs, journals etc.) have little value compared to a human life. When the storm rages, we quickly prioritize, and only the critical grabs our focus and gets our attention

Priorities

What do we consider most important in life? What is a “must have” and what is an add-on – an upsell, as it were? In the aftermath of Harvey, maybe our focus has shifted. And perhaps after reading through Galatians, our “faith focus” may change too. Our goal over the next 6 weeks is to dig into God’s Word to discover what He says about the essential aspects of the Christian life. Are we, like the Galatians, missing the point of what Christ came to do? Are we living in freedom or are we slaves to a man-made religion? So here’s the bible study/devotional challenge for all HCYA Hurricane players between now and the start of season training:

- Read one chapter of Galatians per day for 6 days (Sundays excluded). This may be in addition to a regular daily reading plan, but one chapter is all we’re asking!
- One chapter per day for 6 days allows us to read through the book of Galatians SIX times during pre-season training. Now that’s pretty cool! We won’t have all the answers, and for sure, we’ll barely skim the surface, but we will have a focal point for discussion and a platform for learning what God sees as important – no critical – for the Christian to grow in their faith
- Learn to study the Scriptures in context (the theme of Thursday’s message). “Context is King!”



See you next week at Gleanloch!

Jim Spence: Head Coach - HCYA Hurricanes
Founder - Sports Quest

“Sharing biblical truth to reach, teach & encourage next generation leaders through soccer”