



MEDAL PLAZA COACH GUIDE





CORE EDITION

WORKSHOP COACH GUIDE

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CREATION CARE STATEMENT

"At Ana-Genesis, we strive to minister in ways that care for God's creation, using reusable, compostable, and low-waste materials whenever possible."



CROWNED: Winter Games[®] VBS
CORE EDITION WORKSHOP CRAFT COACH GUIDE
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WELCOME!

Welcome to CROWNED: Winter Games VBS, where Athletes celebrate perseverance, joy, and victory in Christ. Winter sports bring energy and excitement, but the real focus is discovering how to stay faithful, even when life gets tough. Guided by Scripture, we learn God is with us in every race.

At Ana-Genesis, we explore science to learn from and care for God's creation. We use reusable or compostable materials and aim to create minimal waste. As VBS continues, Athletes learn hands-on that caring for the world is one way we love our Creator.

AT THE HEART OF CROWNED IS OUR CORE VERSE:

"God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." — James 1:12

As we play, explore, create, and reflect, we discover victory is not about medals or high scores, but about endurance, trust, and faithfulness to God, no matter what. With Bruno the Hedgehog and Mia the Marmot leading, children enter a joyful space that celebrates teamwork, courage, and perseverance. Through it all, we keep our eyes on Jesus, always at the center.

For Coaches

As a Coach, your role is simple but essential: encourage, guide, and walk alongside your Athletes. You don't need to be an expert. What matters is being a steady presence, helping children feel safe, curious, and supported as they grow in faith.

At the start of each Training Hall demonstration, you'll find a short introduction that begins with 'say something like.' Use these words or your own to help Athletes see how the demonstration connects to the day's Scripture.





THANK YOU!

A WORD OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR COACHES

Thank you for dedicating yourself to shaping the next generation of faith-filled Athletes. Everyone at Ana-Genesis is grateful for every volunteer and minister who gives their time and heart to serve. As a Coach for CROWNED Winter Games VBS, you step into a meaningful role—sharing God’s Word and the love of Jesus with your church family, friends, and new faces.

As you prepare, remember you are not alone. God is with you each step. Our BIG THREE Bible Verses for CROWNED Winter Games VBS are:

“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” James 1:12

(What does Jesus ask us to do?)

“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame.

Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.” Hebrews 12:2

(How can we endure when life gets hard?)

“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.”

(Why should we endure?)

TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

This VBS isn’t about perfection—it’s about faithfulness. Through your encouragement and presence, Athletes will see what it looks like to trust God and keep going, even when it’s challenging. The Ana-Genesis Team is praying for every Coach and Athlete, trusting God will bless this time and use it to plant seeds of faith that will keep growing long after the Games.

We look forward to seeing how God works through you during CROWNED: Winter Games VBS. Thank you for answering the call and helping Athletes run the race with perseverance and joy.



VBS ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

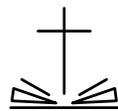
Station / Day	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3
PODIUM ZONE GAMES	Torch Relay Race	Flag Colors Hopscotch	Slide Step Race
SCIENCE TRAINING HALL	Snowstorm in a Jar	Snowball Catapult	Ice Cream Jars
ATHLETES' WORKSHOP	Team Color Bracelets or Keychain	Luge Rider Cups	Wood Sports Jerseys
ATHLETIC VILLAGE DINING HALL	Relay Torch Cheese Puffs	Winter Sport Cupcakes	Sticky Rice "Snowballs"
THE MEDAL PLAZA	James 1:12 Story: Bruno's Team	Hey 12:2 Story: Bruno's New Name	Rev. 3:11 Story: Race of Discovery



STATION ROTATION

After the Opening Ceremonies, Athletes rotate through the Event Venues together. Each rotation invites them to explore God's Word at the Medal Plaza (Reflection Connection) and enjoy engaging activities at the Science Training Hall, Athlete's Workshop, Podium Zone, and Victory Village Hall. Set up as many or as few venues as best fit your group size, space, and volunteer availability. CROWNED is designed to be flexible and adaptable for churches of all sizes.

Hungry Athletes need a fuel charge! The Victory Village Hall station is the time to grab a quick bite while enjoying the fun of making their own snacks. Coaches are encouraged to foster fellowship, encouragement, and teamwork among Athletes throughout the day. Athletes rotate through each venue with their team, building community and sharing the joy of learning, play, and faith as they move through the Games.

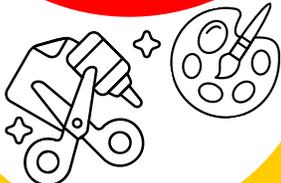


OPENING CEREMONIES
Celebration of Nations

THE MEDAL PLAZA Where we CONNECT with the story and learn how to gain the Crown of Life



ATHLETE'S WORKSHOP Create, craft and learn about victory in Jesus.



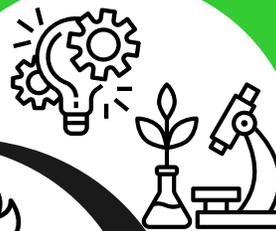
ATHLETIC VILLAGE DINING HALL

Little Athletes need fuel to perform well! Let's make Snacks!



SCIENCE TRAINING HALL

Discover how the amazing ways God works in and through Creation.



PODIUM ZONE GAMES

Inspired by International Winter Sport Competition, let the fun begin!

CROWNED: Winter Games VBS

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FLEXIBLE FORMATS

CROWNED is built to adapt to your church's space, schedule, and capacity. Setting up fun stations is super easy! You can use folding tables, or even mats and blankets, on the floor or on the grass. Even if you have just a handful of kids, it's always a great idea to have at least one extra person, in addition to the Team Captains, to help set up each station between visits. The group can rotate between the different activities, spending as much or as little time at each station as fits your group!

For smooth flow, aim for no more than two Teams per Station at one time. If you have more than 10 teams you can host duplicate Stations. If attendance is lighter, maintain the full experience by adjusting rotation length rather than removing core elements.

SCHEDULING OPTIONS

You are not limited to a four-day model. Consider:

- A weekend experience (Friday–Sunday)
- Consecutive Saturdays
- A three- or four-session format
- Integration into existing Sunday programming

Choose the rhythm that best fits your congregation.

SPACE & SETUP

Stations can function:

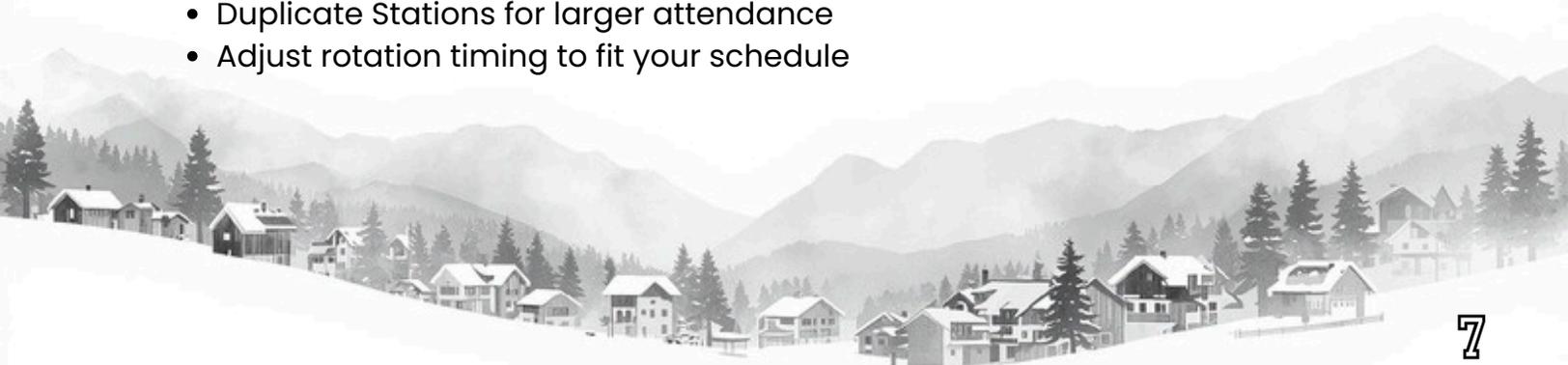
- In separate rooms
- Within one large space
- Outdoors - backyards are a great place for a weekend adventure!
- In clearly marked zones using tables or signage

Clear organization matters more than square footage.

STRUCTURE & CAPACITY

You may:

- Run all five Stations
- Combine Stations if needed
- Duplicate Stations for larger attendance
- Adjust rotation timing to fit your schedule





SAMPLE MORNING SCHEDULE

This schedule is just a sample, please feel free to adjust it to your needs. There are five stations

TIME	GAME	SCIENCE	BASECAMP	MAKER	SNACK
 9:30-10:00	OPENING CEREMONIES: CELEBRATION OF NATIONS				
 10:00-10:30	BLUE	RED	GREEN	BLACK	GOLD
 10:30-11:00	GOLD	BLUE	RED	GREEN	BLACK
 11:00-11:30	BLACK	GOLD	BLUE	RED	GREEN
 11:30-12:00	GREEN	BLACK	GOLD	BLUE	RED
 12:00-12:30	RED	GREEN	BLACK	GOLD	BLUE
CLOSING CEREMONIES OR LUNCH ON A FULL DAY					



SAMPLE AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

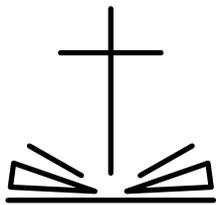
This schedule is just a sample, please feel free to adjust it to your needs. There are five stations

TIME	GAME	SCIENCE	BASECAMP	MAKER	SNACK
 1:30-2:00	OPENING CEREMONIES: CELEBRATION OF NATIONS				
 2:00-2:30	BLUE	RED	GREEN	BLACK	GOLD
 2:30-3:00	GOLD	BLUE	RED	GREEN	BLACK
 3:00-3:30	BLACK	GOLD	BLUE	RED	GREEN
 3:30-4:00	GREEN	BLACK	GOLD	BLUE	RED
 4:00-4:30	RED	GREEN	BLACK	GOLD	BLUE
CLOSING CEREMONIES (10-15 MINUTES)					

MEDAL PLAZA BIBLE TRAINING



SESSION 1



James 1:2–18 | “Chasing the Crown”

James 1:12

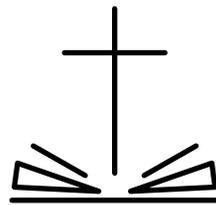
·God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

Faith Connection

In Session 1, Athletes learn that challenges are not signs that God has left them. They are opportunities to grow stronger in faith. When we ask God for wisdom and trust Him without doubting – even when it is hard, we begin chasing the Crown of Life.



SESSION 2



Hebrews 12:1–2 | Our Champion Leads

Hebrews 12:2

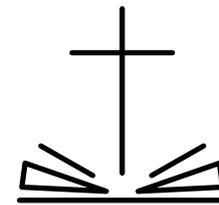
“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith

Faith Connection

Hebrews reminds us that spiritual growth works the same way. We lay aside distractions. We turn away from sin that trips us up. We fix our eyes on Jesus. He shows us how to endure. We run with endurance not by staring at our problems, but by keeping our eyes on Jesus – the champion who begins and completes our faith.



SESSION 3



Revelation 3:11–12 | Our Team

Rev. 3:11

(Jesus said) “I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”

Faith Connection

God is sovereign and has a plan for everyone. He has already given us skills and talents to be a uniquely special part of His team. Our job is to hold on to those gifts—and to our faith—until Jesus comes.



STATION SET-UP

The Medal Plaza is all about studying the Word of God so Athletes can discover how to win the Crown of Life. You will need a copy of the New Living Translation of the Bible at each session.

Every activity at the Medal Plaza is designed to safely spark joy, learning, and understanding about following Jesus. This station focuses on Bible teaching, memory verses, and simple activities like the Bible Verse Snowballs that help athletes remember God's Word.

Please review your lesson and activities 2–3 times before your event so everything runs smoothly and the timing stays on track. Have the following items ready at your station:

Table coverings: Use tablecloths or cloth tarps to cover tables and nearby surfaces. This protects tables from crayons, pencils and markers

Basic cleanup supplies: Keep a spray bottle with plain water, child-safe cleansers, and clean rags or recycled Kraft paper towels nearby for spills or sticky hands.

Safe containers for materials: Use sturdy, unbreakable containers when working with children. Avoid glass during activity time. Adult leaders may use glass items if needed but keep them out of reach.

Safe storage for supplies: Keep scissors, tape cutters, and other sharp tools inside a secure box or container with a lid so they stay well away from little hands.

Snowball Verse materials: The Bible Verse Snowballs should be made from soft paper or recycled paper balls. Store them in a basket or bucket so athletes can safely toss and collect them during the activity.

Secure storage between groups: Store all supplies and materials in a safe place so children cannot access them without supervision.

The goal at Medal Plaza is to create a safe, joyful environment where athletes learn God's Word, encourage one another, and grow stronger in faith together.

Ready for any age

There are two activity sheets plus a homepage each day. The Teams have Athletes ages 7–12 and with different skills. There is an easier and more challenging activity – they do not have to do both – as a Coach, please share the choices.





BIBLE STORY BASICS 1

SESSION 1 BIBLE PASSAGE SUMMARY

James 1:2–18 | “Chasing the Crown”

James reminds us that everyone faces trials of many kinds. Sometimes trials are big and frightening. Sometimes they are quiet worries in our hearts—like feeling left out or not good enough. Instead of running from hard things, James tells believers to “consider it pure joy” when challenges come. Why? Because testing produces perseverance. And perseverance shapes us into people who are mature and complete.

Story Summary

Bruno the Hedgehog lived happily in Vantage Valley until a terrible storm destroyed his family’s home and changed everything. Feeling sad and unsure, Bruno and his parents prayed for God’s guidance and moved to Victory Village, where Bruno met his cousin Arlo. Arlo welcomed Bruno warmly and invited him to the Winter Games and to his Five Alive Bible Club (FAB Club).

At first Bruno didn’t want to go to church because he was still hurting inside, but Arlo encouraged him with a Bible verse about enduring hard times. At FAB Club Bruno met Mia the Marmot and learned about Job, a man in the Bible who suffered greatly but continued trusting God. Bruno began to realize that even when life changes suddenly, God gives us family, friends, and the church to help us endure. Through faith and support from others, Bruno discovered he was not alone.



COACHING GUIDE

Bible memory verse learning can be hard!

Use the “snowball” pom-pom to help the Athletes learn the verse by playing a game similar to hot potato.

As the verse is repeated over and over in a fun and engaging way they will naturally start to retain the information.

Don’t worry too much if younger Athletes need a hand with learning - emphasize the Main Message for them.

MAIN MESSAGE

Jesus gives the Crown of Life to all who love him

Receive the Crown of Life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12 (b)



CHARACTER STORY: BRUNO'S TEAM

Read Job 1:9-22 NLT

Discussion Questions

- How did Bruno's life change after the storm in Vantage Valley?
- Why do you think Bruno felt sad and unsure about the future?
- What did Arlo do to help Bruno when he was struggling?
- Why was Bruno hesitant to go to the FAB Club at first?
- How did Mia help Bruno feel welcome at the club?
- What did Bruno learn from the story of Job?
- Why do you think God gives us the church as a family?
- Can you think of a time when a friend or family member helped you during a hard time?

Coach Connection

Explain that everyone faces difficult moments in life. Like Bruno and Job, we may not always understand why hard things happen. But God promises to be with us, and He often sends people—family, friends, and the church—to walk with us through those seasons. Encourage athletes to remember that perseverance and faith grow stronger when we trust God together.

Key Takeaway

When hard times come, we can trust God, encourage one another, and keep moving forward together as part of His team.



BIBLE STORY BASICS 2

SESSION 2 BIBLE PASSAGE SUMMARY

Hebrews 12:1-2 | The Great Champion Leads

Read Job 29:14-20 NLT

In Hebrews 12, we are reminded that we are not running alone. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses — believers who have gone before us and lived lives of faith. Because of that, we are told to lay aside anything that slows us down and to run with endurance the race God has set before us. Building on the lessons from yesterday, the writer of Hebrews tells us how to persevere: **we keep our eyes on Jesus**. He is the champion. He began our faith, and He completes it. Jesus endured the cross because of the joy set before Him. He finished His race faithfully.

Story Summary

Mia loved snowboarding. When the mountain was smooth, the ride felt easy and fast. But when the snow became rough and the trail twisted between trees, Mia had to concentrate. She kept her eyes forward and remembered what her coach taught her. One day she hit a rough patch and fell, but she stood up, brushed off the snow, and finished the run. Mia knew that real endurance means getting back up and staying in the race.

At FAB Club that week, Ms. Badgerly continued the story of Job. Before his troubles, Job was respected and honored by many people. But over time he began focusing more on praise and success than on God. Ms. Badgerly reminded the club that the race of faith works the same way. When we keep our eyes on Jesus, the true Champion, He gives us the strength to keep going and finish well.



CHARACTER STORY: THE TRUE CHAMPION

The Winter Games trials continue, and today is special! Mia is trying out for the snowboarding team! She has been training for a long time and really hopes to make the team.

As she descends the mountain in record time Mia stays focused on her Coach – a great Champion who knows exactly how to win.

MAIN MESSAGE

**Keep your eyes on Jesus
to win the Crown.**

We do this by
keeping our eyes on
Jesus, the champion
who initiates and
perfects our faith
Heb. 12:2



CHARACTER STORY: THE TRUE CHAMPION

Read Job 1:9–22 NLT

Discussion Questions

- Why did Mia have to focus carefully when she was snowboarding?
- What did Mia do after she fell on the mountain?
- Why were Arlo and Mia worried about the bobsled team?
- What kind of person was Job before his troubles began?
- What mistake did Job start to make in his heart?
- Why is it easy for people to focus on praise or success instead of God?
- What does it mean to keep our eyes on Jesus?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us live like champions for God?

Coach Connection

Explain that everyone faces difficult moments in life. Like Bruno and Job, we may not always understand why hard things happen. But God promises to be with us, and He often sends people—family, friends, and the church—to walk with us through those seasons. Encourage athletes to remember that perseverance and faith grow stronger when we trust God together.

Key Takeaway

When hard times come, we can trust God, encourage one another, and keep moving forward together as part of His team.



BIBLE STORY BASICS 3

SESSION 3 BIBLE PASSAGE SUMMARY

Revelation 3:11 | Job 38

Bruno's Curling Team didn't win a medal but he discovers that he has an open invitation to join God's Team where victory is guaranteed.

Mia's pastor read Revelation 3:11 and explained that "soon" doesn't mean tomorrow on our calendar. In heaven, time is different. The important part is not when Jesus comes—it's that we stay faithful until He does. He shared that just like all the teams that were holding Winter Games Trials, those who love Jesus will also face trials.

Story Summary

Bruno hoped his curling team would win a medal at the Winter Games, but they missed the podium by only a few inches. Even though curling was a team sport, Bruno felt like the loss was his fault. At church that week, the pastor reminded everyone that following Jesus means staying faithful even when life is hard. Then he shared more of Job's story and explained that God created everything with wisdom and purpose—including Bruno.

Bruno began to understand that he didn't need to become someone else. God had already given him the gifts he needed. Soon another opportunity appeared when Mia's bobsled team needed a third teammate. Bruno joined Mia and Arlo in the sled, and together they raced down the icy track and won gold. In that moment Bruno realized something important: being on God's team is more important than winning. His favorite new title wasn't champion—it was teammate. On God's team everyone has a place when we hold on to our faith and keep running the race together.



CHARACTER STORY: BRUNO'S NEW NAME

Bruno didn't win - It hurt but it wasn't the end. Mia invites him to her bobsled team when her friend didn't show up. Together, Bruno, Mia and Arlo cross the finish line and win GOLD!

Belonging to God isn't about winning—it's about holding on to what we have. They study Job. After great suffering, God reminds Job in Job 38 that He created the snow, the hail - and Bruno too. Finally, in Job 42 God gives Job more than he had in the first place

MAIN MESSAGE

God has already given us skills and talents to be a special part of his team.

**I am coming soon.
Hold on to what you
have, so that no one
will take your crown
Rev 3:11**



CHARACTER STORY: BRUNO'S NEW NAME

Read Job 42:10-17

Discussion Questions

1. How did Bruno feel after his curling team missed the podium?
1. Why did Bruno think the loss was his fault?
1. What did the pastor teach about staying faithful during hard times?
1. What did Bruno learn from the story of Job?
1. Why did Mia invite Bruno to join the bobsled team?
1. How did Bruno feel when the team crossed the finish line together?
1. Why is being part of God's team more important than winning a medal?
1. What do you think it means to "hold on" to the gifts and faith God gives us?

Coach Connection

Remind athletes that everyone experiences disappointment sometimes. Losing a game or making a mistake doesn't mean the race is over. God has given each person unique gifts and a place on His team. When we trust Him and encourage one another, we can keep running the race faithfully.

Key Takeaway

On God's team, every person matters. When we hold on to our faith and use the gifts God has given us, we can run the race together as teammates.

○
**Receive the Crown
of Life that the
Lord has promised
to those who love
him. James 1:12 (b)**

○
**So I run with
purpose in every
step.
1 Cor 9:26**

○
**I am coming soon. Hold
on to what you have, so
that no one will take
your crown
Rev 3:11**

○
**And athletes cannot
win the prize unless
they follow the
rules
2 Tim 2:5**

SCRIPTURE SNOWBALLS

You will Need:

- This sheet
 - White Yarn
 - Scissors
 - a rectangle of study cardboard
1. Print off this sheet in color
 2. Cut out the snowballs
 3. Cut the cardboard into a "2-prong fork" shape as pictured
 4. Wrap yarn around the cardboard strip several times (about 25–40 wraps).
 5. Tie the Middle: Slide a piece of yarn through the center slit and tie it tightly around the middle of the wrapped yarn. Double knot.
 6. Cut the Bottom: Cut through the yarn loops along the bottom edge.
 7. Fluff & Trim: Slide the tassel off the cardboard. Trim the ends evenly and fluff.
 8. Tie a snowball to the pom pom.



CROWNED: Winter Games VBS

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TEAM PLAYBOOK HOMEPAGE



READ JAMES 1: 2-18

Jesus promises a special reward, called the Crown of Life, to everyone who loves Him. What do you think the Crown of Life means?

It's important to stay humble and kind, even if we know God has a special reward for us. What are some ways we can practice being humble?

Add spiritual "gems" to the crown and name them using ideas ways to stay humble and kind. Example "Pray"



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STORY SUMMARY: BRUNO'S TEAM

Bruno the Hedgehog has just arrived in Victory Village, and everything feels new and overwhelming. The village is buzzing with excitement for the Winter Games.

Everywhere he looks, athletes are skating, skiing, sliding, and soaring. Bruno longs to belong. But he is small. His legs are short. His spines make him feel awkward and different. What if no one wants him on their team? Bruno discovers that Someone wants him on the team very, very much.

MAIN MESSAGE

Jesus gives the Crown of Life to all who love him

Receive the Crown of Life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12 (b)

TEAM PLAYBOOK HOMEPAGE



READ HEBREWS 12:1-2

Divide the box into two columns:

LEFT: THROW OFF:

(write things that distracts you)

RIGHT: RUN WITH:

(write things that help follow Jesus)

My Finish Line

1. Draw a big finish line banner at the top of the box.
2. Draw yourself running toward it.
3. Above the finish line write: JESUS

- When school feels hard, I will:
- When I feel like quitting, I will:
- I keep my eyes on Jesus by:

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CHARACTER STORY: THE TRUE CHAMPION

The Winter Games trials continue, and today is special! Mia is trying out for the snowboarding team! She has been training for a long time and really hopes to make the team.

As she descends the mountain in record time Mia stays focused on her Coach – a great Champion who knows exactly how to win.

MAIN MESSAGE

Keep your eyes on our
Champion, Jesus, to win
the Crown.

**We do this by
keeping our eyes on
Jesus, the champion
who initiates and
perfects our faith
Heb. 12:2**

TEAM PLAYBOOK HOMEPAGE

SESSION
1



READ REV. 3:10-13

- What does Jesus promise in this passage?
- Write the promise in your own words.
- Why does Jesus' promise matter?

Bruno learned he already belonged to God's Team. Draw yourself wearing your "Team God" jersey in this space.

What gifts has God already given you?

- God made me good at:
- I can encourage others by:
- I will hold on to:

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CHARACTER STORY: BRUNO'S NEW NAME

Bruno didn't make the speed skating team. It hurt—but it wasn't the end. Bruno makes the finals for the curling team and Mia invites him to her join her and Arlo on the 3-person Bobsled team.

Belonging to God isn't about winning—it's about holding on to what we have. They study Job. After great suffering, God reminds Job in Job 38 that He created the snow, the hail - and Bruno too.

MAIN MESSAGE

God is Sovereign and has a plan for everyone. He has already given us skills and talents to be a uniquely special part of his team.

**I am coming soon. Hold
on to what you have, so
that no one will take
your crown
Rev 3:11**



THE GREATEST RACE OF ALL

Phew! Your VBS training is almost done! You may be feeling a bit tired by now. On a weekend VBS like this, it is often the simple, repeated things that matter most. Throughout CROWNED Winter Games VBS, we ask and answer the core questions of the Christian faith. Together, we explore the who, what, why, where, when, and how of following Jesus, guided by three Scripture passages that all point to Him.

- **James 1:12 – The crown of life.**
- **Hebrews 12:2 – The Champion and King**
- **Revelation 3:11 – Hold fast to your crown.**

Combining these passages with the story of Job Athletes learn that even in the hardest of times God is still with us and still loves us.

Who? Everyone. We are all called to follow and serve Jesus – and the One whom we serve is Jesus, our true Champion.

What? He lovingly calls us to be part of the family of faith. We are asked to persevere, hold on to our faith, run the race well, and continue obeying and serving with integrity.

Why? Because He loves us. He promises good gifts – love, joy, peace, faith, and ultimately – a Crown of Life to those who love Him – not a temporary reward, but eternal life in Christ.

How? On our own, obedience is hard. We cannot earn salvation. We fix our eyes on Jesus, the Champion who both initiates and perfects our faith. We make an effort, but we lean on grace. The redemptive work is already completed in Christ. It is by grace we are saved.

Where? In our daily lives, in our communities, in how we care for one another and for Creation, and forever with the Lord.

When? Today and every day. It is always the right time to commit ourselves to serving the Lord and fixing our eyes on Jesus.

VBS might be over but the race has just begun - keep your Athletes in prayer; the seeds planted now will bear fruit in due season.



**RUN THE RACE.
WIN THE CROWN.**



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