

Baseball Team Devotion-The Third Base Coach

Scripture Lesson: Mark 12:28-33

The Third Base Coach in baseball plays a vital role in the game. He directs the game from his coaching box. In college, high school, and youth leagues the Third Base Coach is most often the Head coach. While in professional baseball, the Third Base Coach receives signs from the dugout and passes them on to the players. The Third Base Coach directs the game through a series of signs he gives. He can tell a hitter to swing, take a pitch, hit and run, and bunt. He can tell the base runner to steal or not and whether or not to advance to the next base or hold there. The signs or directions he gives become more complicated the older the players become. Sometimes even Major League players either miss a sign or have to call time to confer with the Third Base Coach to make sure he has the right sign. Signs can be as simple as touching the sleeve for the runner to steal or touching the bill of the cap for bunt. The next time you see a professional game, watch the series of signs the Third Base Coach gives and how he directs the game.

We are very fortunate that we have someone who wants to direct the game of life for us. Jesus, many times in the Gospels, gives us directions for how to live our lives. Instead of using a series of signs from a third base coaching box, Jesus uses words from His heart and from His Father's heart. In our Scripture Lesson today, Jesus is asked which commandment is the most important of all. Or in other words what is the best direction you can give us. Jesus answers by quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5, "Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, The Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." Then He adds a second, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus has given us the signs for a life committed to God, love God with everything we have, every part of our being, as much as we can and to love our neighbor. So if we are to follow His coaching we will be all about LOVE. Did you get His signs? Are you ready to execute the play Jesus calls for in life? Then let's love like He commands us to each and everyday!

Visual Aid: Ask a player or coach to give the team sign for stealing or bunting or do the elementary signs described above for them to start the Team Devotion.