

Heart of a Coach – June 2008



Kevin coaching with our Des Moines Metro Baseball League

Name: Kevin Smith

Hometown: Johnston, Iowa

Alma Mater: Central College

Degree: B.A. in Business Management

Chosen Attribute: Responsibility/Accountability

What is your personal definition of this word? With God's power, to strive and dare to live a life that consistently demonstrates Christ's love and truth.

What are some of your favorite quotes from other people about this word?

1. "Whatever it takes. No excuses or explanations. Do what we do." – Tony Dungy
2. "It's important to accept our mistakes & learn from them. We can't use them as excuses."
– John Wooden
3. "You are responsible for the consequences of your actions." – Dr. Ray Pugh

What is your favorite Biblical passage that deals with this characteristic?

Joshua 1:9 – "Haven't I commanded you: be bold and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Why did you choose that particular passage? It is a verse that is both comforting and challenging. While God calls us to be courageous in our decision to pursue a Christ-centered lifestyle and that He will help us with that pursuit, it also challenges us by reminding us that He is always there as a witness to our thoughts, actions, and motives.

Please give an application/example of this word in your life. I used to coach out of a sense of personal pride and was driven to excel out of a fear of failure. These are both very selfish traits and while a successful team or season may result as measured in worldly terms, relationships lack depth and only last as long as the team or event.

My focus now is to focus on relationship building with the other coaches, kids, and parents that I have an opportunity to serve and to set a positive example for them in my approach with the officials, opponents, and the spirit of the game.

How do you apply this word in your sport? We draft an annual “Code of Honor” for the kids and parents to adopt. This code is founded on Christ’s principles of love and respect for others and a selfless attitude that identifies how we will give of ourselves to benefit the team and the sport. We are NOT perfect role models and at least one of us fails at every game or practice in our attempt to maintain this Code, but we establish expectations for ourselves that have little to do with winning and a lot to do with serving one another. (see attached Comet Code of Honor – 2008).

How did you become involved in FCA? I was originally introduced to the FCA in high school in 1976. I attended several FCA sponsored events and participated in the FCA group (now known as “huddles”) at Johnston High School for three years. Bob Sapp and Don Briggs were the group leaders at that time.

How active within FCA were/are you? I presently support the local FCA ministry through volunteer work with the Des Moines Urban Baseball League and through financial support.

In high school, the FCA helped me understand the significance and purpose of Christ’s sacrifice for the benefit of all who believe. While I was raised in a Church, I wasn’t passionate about my faith walk and didn’t truly grasp the Good News of the New Testament.

What is your athletic experience? - Football, Basketball, Track, & Baseball at Johnston High School through 1978 & 2 years of Football at Central College, Pella, Iowa.

What is your coaching experience? I have served as a youth sports coach in baseball, basketball, football, and soccer in Ankeny and Polk City. I also assist with coaching duties at FCA’s Des Moines Urban Baseball League. I coached competitive youth baseball teams from 1996-present for my three son’s teams and volunteered for a variety of recreation and competitive basketball, football and soccer teams through that same timeframe.

