



Home Group Discussion Guide *April 10-16, 2022 Care for One Another*

Devotion: In 1999, Ken Carter, coach of the Richmond High basketball team, made national headlines after suspending the undefeated team because they had failed to live up to the academic and behavioral contracts they had signed. This story was honored in the 2005 movie, *Coach Carter*, starring Samuel L. Jackson as Ken Carter. The story begins with Carter starting as the new coach of a dysfunctional basketball program. Carter receives pushback because he is more concerned with the team's quality of character off the court. Timo Cruz, one of the team's best players, defies Carter by walking out on the team. While this discourages the team, Carter perseveres in shaping the lives of these boys. The key challenge is leading them to act as a team rather than individuals. Carter tells them that they are to fail as a team and succeed as a team. As the team begins to improve, the community takes notice. Meanwhile, Cruz realizes the mistake he has made by quitting the team. He appears at practice and asks Carter to allow him back on the team. Initially dismissing him, Carter finally agrees that if Cruz can give him 2,500 push-ups and 1,000 suicides in an allotted time, he may return to the team. Cruz starts immediately. Though Cruz completes a considerable portion of this task, he falls incredibly short of completing it all in time. As Coach Carter dismisses him, Cruz stands exhausted and in disbelief. However, one by one the players begin to do push-ups and run suicides. One player says, "We fail together, we succeed together." Cruz is welcomed back onto the team, and they go on to have an incredible season.

Often, we Christians must be taught a similar lesson. As parts of the body of Christ, we cannot be "lone wolf Christians". We must serve as a part of the body and recognize that we work with different parts as well. We recognize those we would not be able to do the work of the church without. We are a team! Similarly, we must learn that as one of us struggles, we all struggle, and when one of us succeeds, we all succeed. Therefore, mourn with and support your brother or sister when they stumble, and when a brother or sister succeeds, share in their joy, and celebrate them! We must care for and honor one another well.

Scripture – Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-26

- According to this passage, why is it important for us to have no division?
- How do we remain united as the body? What is one way you have become united with other members of the church?
- Why is it important for us to suffer and rejoice together and in what way do you think we need to improve?



How is it with your soul? *(Go around and share as you look back to the “good and the bad” of this week and then look forward to what you can do or where you want to see God move this week.)*

- Where have you seen God this week?
- Where have you struggled this week?
- How can you be open to God/the Holy Spirit this week?

Prayers