CONNECT Group study questions for July 8, 2018 Title: "Becoming a Spiritual Champion"

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24.

1. Through the various types of "games" that were held during the time of the NT, Paul's audience would have certainly understood the analogy of competition. What impact does the thought of "running the Christian race" have on the way you perceive and live your life?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:25.

2. Verse 25 offers a tough charge to the reader of engaging in "strict training" for the Christian life. Our days are filled with busyness and distractions. How can we do a better job of engaging the self-control and training we need to "win" as Christians?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:26.

3. Paul tells us that we shouldn't be running around aimlessly, but instead we should have a purpose and a direction. As we think about self-control from question #2, what are some small steps that you can take this week to have a defined purpose and direction?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:27.

4. Self-control is about being the master of your own body and mind. Paul encourages Christians to work to make their body submit to the will of God in their lives. Pastor Peppy outlined the steps needed to move in this direction: 1. Repent, 2. Renew your mind, 3. Fast, and 4. Find an accountability partner. Which of these steps are easy for you? Which are more difficult? Privately or publicly consider what may be holding you back from taking these steps.