

Use “The Scene” to introduce “It’s How You Play the Game” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for March 19, 2017. The lesson is found on page 17 of *Young Teen Teacher*.



The University of Cincinnati Bearcats were way ahead, and everyone knew what that meant. “Tobler! Tobler!” the chant started small and grew into a roar until all the Bearcats fan were shouting for crowd favorite, Zack Tobler.

Zack wasn’t a starter. He wasn’t even a sleeper. His main role on the team was to help the others guys work out at practices. But when the time came for the final regular season home game, Zack was honored right along with senior star starters Kevin Johnson and Troy Caupain. And this time, much to his surprise, Zack would be starting too.

The coach let him know just a few minutes before the game, and the star players made sure to get Zack the ball so he could make a basket. All he had to do was follow the directions of Caupain.

But Zack didn’t even take the glory for that moment in the spotlight. At the end of the game (which they won) he said, “Troy threw me a great pass. . . . It was cool, but I was just happy we got the win.” Zack never minded not being in the spotlight for every game, and he didn’t try to take on roles that he wasn’t ready for. Instead, he just followed the directions of his coach and was grateful to have some part in making the whole team successful.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:

Have you ever been a part of a group where you played a small role? What were your feelings about that?

Have you ever had a hard time handling either winning or losing? What happened?

What do you think could help you keep a good attitude about winning or losing?

Today we’ll look at attitudes about winning and losing that are found in the Bible.