

code life UNLOCKED

CODE I. - Jesus is my Captain,
Brother, Rescuer and Friend

A 12-month study guide for men.

CODE I. - Jesus is my Captain, Brother, Rescuer and Friend

Captain: One who commands, leads, or guides others.

Overview

The problem with captains and leaders of men is their inevitable lack of one or more of the characteristics needed to lead: victory, sympathy and inspiration.

History highlights specific men who have excelled in the art of victory. Experts in battle may include Alexander the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte and Winston Churchill. Through the ages the world has also seen immense displays of sympathy from figures like Florence Nightingale, Mother Theresa and Gandhi. Epic displays of inspiration have come often from characters like Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and JFK.

There is no doubt a captivating world leader may bring liberation, hope and at a stretch, justice. However, if we were to draw up the perfect captain, he would undoubtedly look like Jesus. As we unlock the first code, we will look directly at the character of Jesus, who demonstrated the greatest victory, immense sympathy and divine inspiration.

During the next four weeks we will look at how we can fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and captain of our faith. In our exploration we will answer the real questions about surviving as a Christian, and how we can continue to carry on in what Paul the Apostle called 'the race'. Each study will also include a pledge to help focus our minds for the weeks to follow.

January - Week One: Victory

Let's kick off with this truth. Jesus has won, He is winning and He will win. As we look at the Word of God let's pray that our heads and hearts capture this sense of victory. Only when we grasp the truth that we follow a victorious God, can we then claim victory for ourselves; victory over worldly worries, fear, anxiety, stress, doubt and faithlessness.

Mark 10 v. 32-34

“They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him.

We are going up to Jerusalem, he said, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”

Questions:

- 1) Jesus knew how his life was going to end yet he still pursued his calling. Why does this make him victorious?
- 2) Jesus was fearless in the face of his persecutors, how should this affect our Christian faith?
- 3) Everything Jesus predicted came true; his life, death and resurrection. What is our current image of Jesus, and is it accurate?
- 4) What does Jesus' victory over death mean for our lives?

It is imperative that when we go to work we are aware that the founder of our Christian faith went to battle with death itself and won.

If we are not experiencing Jesus' power in our daily lives we need to ask him for this. Often we forget that God is truly alive and start to think that our faith is more of a way of thinking as oppose to a way of living.

Pledge

Let's pray for God to develop our characters as we become Resurrection Men. My pledge this week is to:

- Stand fearless in the face of my problems.
- Claim victory over anything causing anxiety or worry in the name of Jesus.
- Speak boldly about Jesus, who conquered death, and whose Spirit lives inside me.
- Trust God with my life, death and resurrection.

Brothers, we will rise again because we know Jesus. We will have victory because we know Jesus. We will not be afraid of this world because we know Jesus.

ישראל
יהושע
אלה
אבות
עם
העולם
לך
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January - Week Two: Sympathy

Man-management is the key to taking any sports team to the top. No two players are the same. Some need aggressive motivation while others need a soft approach. In our daily lives God knows what we need before we ask it. He knows what we need physically and emotionally to survive and move forward.

In Jesus we have a Captain who has the perfect man-management approach. He can sympathise with our every situation in a way no other person can. When we believe our faith-founder can truly sympathise with us, only then can we trust him completely.

Hebrews 4 v. 14-16

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Questions:

- 1) Think about your faith. Have you been holding on to the message of Jesus in recent months or do you feel something is slipping?
- 2) How can we combat the thought that Jesus is a distant being who does not understand what its like down here?
- 3) Jesus was tempted in every way yet was without sin, how should this encourage our walk with God?

4) Do we approach God confidently and why is it important that we should?

Gentlemen, the enemy will spend the rest of your life trying to persuade you that God is against you. The thought that you are alone in this life will always be nearby. However, the Word of God, which is living and active, clearly states that Jesus is with you until the end. Our captain will lead us and carry us. He sympathises and he saves. He was tempted in EVERY way.

Pledge

This week lets try and fix an accurate picture of Jesus' character in our minds; a captain who sympathises and understands. This week I pledge to:

- Thank God for sending Jesus who became fully man to sympathise and to save.
- Resist sin in the name of Jesus who was tempted in every way.
- Approach the throne of grace with confidence knowing that I have been forgiven and am free because of Jesus.
- Hold onto the message of Jesus in my time of need.

Brothers, our status with God is perfect because we trust in Jesus who was without sin. Let us celebrate that fact fully this week.

January - Week Three: Inspiration

Jesus referred to his Kingdom on Earth as a plentiful harvest with few workers in the book of Matthew. As a Christian in the UK I can testify that things have not changed. The Gospel is still as effective as ever, but the workers are few. We need to pray that the Lord of the Harvest sends out his workers. We need inspiration. We need our minds renewed. We need to back the Gospel once again and trust the Spirit when we share Jesus with those around us.

Acts 6 v. 7

“So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”

Questions:

- 1) Why is hard to believe that we have received exactly the same message and Spirit as the disciples?
- 2) Think back on your Christian faith, what things have inspired you to follow Jesus passionately during your walk with God?
- 3) How high up in your priorities is the prayer, “Lord send more Gospel workers here in the UK.”
- 4) Are there obvious barriers in our lives and our churches which hinder us from sharing the message of Jesus with those around us?
- 5) How can we encourage each other to stay inspired by the Gospel?

January - Week Four: Friends with the Captain

After three days and three nights completely alone, the prophet Jonah turned back to the Lord from the stomach of a huge sea creature. Somewhere in Jonah's life he made the same mistake that we make in our British culture all the time. It was not that he forgot that God was real, but he forgot that God was good.

He ran from the Word of God assuming that his creator was no longer on his side. The result was that he became completely alone. Research shows that loneliness is rife amongst men in the UK. I believe the enemy of the Christian faith tries daily to persuade men that God is no longer on their side. We need to get a handle on the Truth.

In John's account of Jesus last days, a prayer was spoken from the Son of God to the Father. This is one of the most important prayers for each and every one of us men today. Jesus prayed for all of us.

John 17 v. 20 – 26

"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father; just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me.

May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me ... I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

codelife

codelife is a national movement based around "The Code": a rule of life for men that helps them to stay gripped and focussed on living a full on, uncompromised Jesus centred life, in company with others.

This codelife resource was written by Alex Willmott a former Newspaper Journalist who became a Christian in South Wales when he was 16-years-old. Alex was not brought up in a church environment and has a passion for encouraging men to share their faith in the message of Jesus. Alex is also passionate about rugby, football, Guinness and anything that makes him laugh. Alex now works as the Head of Resources for CVM.



- I. Jesus is my Captain, Brother, Rescuer and Friend.
- II. I owe everything to Him. I will do anything for Him.
- III. I will unashamedly make Him known through my actions and words.
- IV. I will not cheat in anything, personal or professional.
- V. I will look away from the gutter, but be prepared to pull people out of it.
- VI. I will keep my body fit and free from any addictions.
- VII. I will put the welfare of those closest to me before my own welfare.
- VIII. I will treat all men and women as brothers and sisters.
- IX. I will lead as He would lead. I will honour my leaders provided this also honours Him. I will follow Him in company with my sisters and brothers.
- X. I will use my strength to protect the weak and stand against the abuse of power.
- XI. I will protect the world that God has made.
- XII. If I fail I will not give up. He never gives up on me.