

# 4 Boundaries

## Core Verse

2 Timothy 2v5. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

## Background

The Isthmian Games were held the year before and the year after the Olympic Games in ancient times. The games were held near the city of Corinth where one of the first century Christian churches was located. The Apostle Paul wrote two letters to this church (1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians). The Greeks were sports-crazy like the Australians and the Corinthians were no exception. They were into javelin, discus, jumping, running, boxing and wrestling. Each of the sports had rules and winners were awarded a crown. Unfortunately it wasn't made out of gold or silver, instead herbs were used which withered in the sunlight.

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| 1. What's more important, winning or competing? Explain |
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2. What would happen if there were no rules in a game?  
How is this like life?

### **More Info**

God has defined boundaries for us. Not to make life difficult but to help us live successful and dynamic lives. He wants us to perform well so He's given us a guidebook. The Bible is like a roadmap which keeps us on course. Some people don't like abiding by the rules and make up their own. Inevitably this results in them losing their way and either hurting themselves, someone else or both.

3. How do you find the Bible useful in guiding your life?

## **Dig deeper**

*Read Galatians 5v13-15 “Freedom”*

4. What are some of the problems that occur when we throw out the rulebook?

5. Why is the Bible a better guidebook to life than anything the “great” philosophers of history have written?

## **Dig deeper**

*Read 1 Corinthians 9v24-27, Revelations 2v10, James 1v12*

6. What is the ultimate prize in life? Explain

7. Why is it “safer” to remain within God’s boundaries?

8. If you’re already a Christian and God has already written your name in the Book of Life and guaranteed you a place in Heaven, why shouldn’t you toss out the Bible and do your own thing until you go to Heaven?

### **What’s this got to do with us?**

Knowing the rules to the game of life can help you win. The ultimate prize is the crown of life. Life is not just about winning; it’s also about how you play the game. Learning the techniques from a master player (Jesus Christ – the creator of all things) can really give you the edge.