



SESSION 1: GROWING IN OBSCURITY

Objectives

- To understand that what we do when no-one is watching is important.
- To see that even though others don't notice us, God does.
- To help us see that gifts and talents developed in obscurity can lead to shaping destiny –for an individual, for a nation.

Introduction: **Related Skill**

Ever been to a match where you watched or saw a player do something extraordinary? You sat there, gasped, and asked, 'How did he do that?' If you are watching it on TV you want to rewind it five times just to see what he's done. While some things take place 'spur of the moment' more often than not those skills and movements have been practiced and rehearsed many times over. It wasn't just luck that made it happen, but tons of hours invested in perfecting the touch and skill.

Activity: **Trick Competition**

Everyone gets a ball (or do it in groups if not enough balls) to juggle with. Three or four coaches are chosen to be Judges. While everyone is juggling, the Judges are looking for the best three or four people with tricks to show off. After 3/4 minutes when the Judges have made their selections, there is a 'Juggle off' between the final contestants – try and limit it to about four people. The finalists are given one minute to all juggle at the same time. Using the audience, two are then chosen to go through to a final juggle off. The final 2 are given another minute to show off their talents before the audience make the final decision as to who they want to be the winner. (i.e., Judges pick the four finalists, but the audience pick the overall winner!!)

Application

Tricks – often we practice little tricks as we juggle on our own. We develop our touch and feel for the ball as we juggle it, flick it, flip it, catch it. Our body gets a sense of how hard it is to tap, flick, kick, or cushion the ball as we play with it.

Touch is something we develop on our own. We don't need 21 other players to do it. All we need is a ball (not even that – Pele used a grapefruit!!) and some space and off we go.

Touch is developed/practiced/worked on not so much in training, but in solitude – on your own, in your back yard, just you and one or two mates.

Question: How did you guys develop your touch? Only at training... or more often on your own?

Get response

No one is watching, no one is taking note, everything is undetected by others... but all the while you are developing a touch and a feel for the ball that will help you. When you come to the game, you now have the confidence, the technique, the ability to work the ball as you want to. Sure, you might not get to do all the flashy skills that you've shown today during the juggle off in a game, but in terms of being comfortable and confident on the ball, you've got it.

What you've done in obscurity prepares you for what you can do in public – in the big game, in front of the big crowds.

