

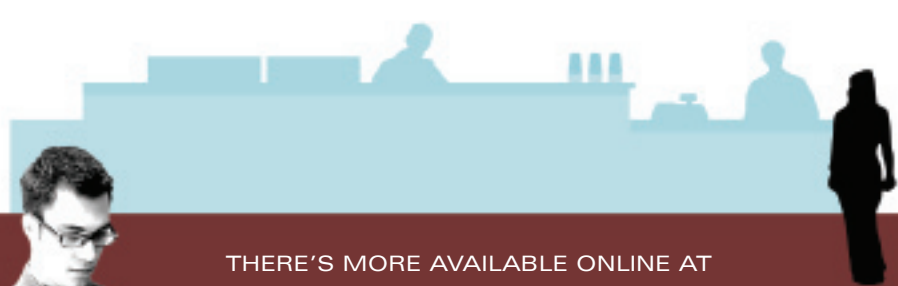
ILLUSTRATIONS

Empty chair illustration – Set an empty chair on the stage in front as you explain:

When I get really busy and pulled in a million different directions, I think of God as the invisible friend that patiently sits in the empty chair. He sits there like some amazing friend waiting for us just to show up. He's not demanding, it's not like He gets all ticked and has a lightning bolt come and hit you if you don't take time with Him each day, or time in the Word. He understands that, even when you're young, sometimes it seems like there's a million things you have to get done. And He just cares about you. He's the great invisible friend in the chair of your heart waiting somehow for you to work Him in. He's not an obligation. He's an empty chair with His heart sitting there waiting for you to somehow, because He loves you so much, make time for Him. Not because it's a duty, but because He really loves you. Varsity God, Varsity Sports, Varsity Work, Varsity Dating, whatever...just take Him into the middle of it with you.

Step ladder illustration: eternal perspective – Bring a step ladder on stage and climb it as you explain:

When I want to quit, sometimes I say to God, give me an aerial view. Give me a perspective from Your view of what really counts. The kind someday in heaven I'll be glad I had. Because you know what, leaders? Someday in heaven we'll be glad we made the sacrifices, that we did the stuff we didn't want to do and we'll be glad we had an aerial view, God's perspective. Because then things like what we're feeling now probably won't be so important and we'll be so glad we put Him first.



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P.O. Box 450309
Atlanta, GA 31145
404-284-8262

www.youthleaderscoach.com