

# CHAPTER 14

## DENYING YOUR MAN



Biblical Lessons for Students, Athletes & More

Individual or Group Experience

### FOCAL VERSE

“But whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven.”  
Matthew 10:33 (ESV)

### WISE WORDS

“God is a presence that I can never define but I could never deny.”  
John Shelby Spong

### Introduction

Begin by reflecting on the quote and scripture in the right-hand column.

### Pages 93-95

- Read through pages 93-95. Pause after the set of bullet points (p.95).
- **Question: Of the bullet points listed, which bullet point can you relate to the most? In what other ways do we regularly deny Christ?**
- Finish reading page 95.
  - **Have you ever been in a situation when you should have stood up for your Christian faith but instead stood silent? If you could go back, what would you do differently?**
  - **Conversely, have you been in a situation when you did stand up for your faith?**

### PAGE 96

#### Player Application

- Read through the player application, then answer the following question within that paragraph: **Is there anything getting between you and God that would keep you from receiving His blessings? Let your guard down and be honest.**

#### Coach Application (for everyone)

- Read through the coach application. **Are you currently investing time in God's Word during the week?** If you answered "yes," what works well for you? What type of routine have you developed that helps you stay consistent?

#### Parent Application (for everyone)

*But first...*

Chapter thirteen challenged us to compose ourselves under pressure or stress. Did you encounter a stressful situation recently in which you showed more composure than you normally would have?

“  
The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.  
—Brennan Manning

They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him.  
Titus 1:6

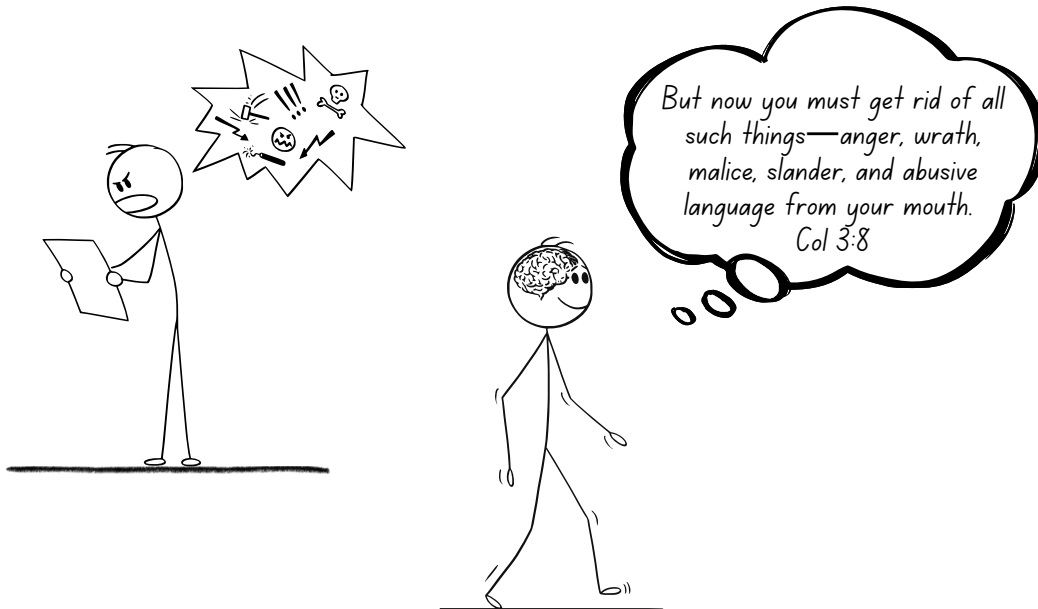


- Are spiritual conversations a natural occurrence in your home? Are you comfortable talking about God or faith? Why or why not?

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### Personal Training Session

- While Matthew 10:33 cautions us about denying Christ, who does Luke 9:23 say we should deny? What does that mean? Luke 9:23 says we should deny ourselves! Additionally, Jesus said we should take up our cross daily if we want to follow Him. The cross used to be a symbol of death; therefore, Christ was saying we should "die to ourselves." In other words, we should deny or reject our own selfish desires, and instead, desire what Christ desires: righteousness, holiness, truth, love, faithfulness, purity, etc.
- What are various ways we inadvertently (unintentionally) deny Christ on a daily basis. Identify tangible strategies to prevent "denying Christ before men."
  - **Example:** Mike constantly finds himself using profanity, which "conforms to the culture of this world," not the character of Christ. Mike challenges himself to memorize **Colossians 3:8** in an effort to deny his desires and become more aligned with Christ's character. As Mike commits to these changes, the Holy Spirit will simultaneously make changes in his heart and mind—and He'll do the same for you!



- Challenge yourself (or your group) to memorize Matthew 10:33 by writing it down on a notecard and meditating on it each day between now and next session.
- **Optional:** Offer an incentive for those who are able to recite the verse at the beginning of the next class.

### Post Game Prayer

End with the Post Game Prayer on page 98 or invite someone to close.

Group leader, look for ways you can lead by example. Start by memorizing Matthew 10:33 for yourself. Identify ways you might unintentionally deny Christ (or His character) in your own life. Be willing to share your own experiences and discoveries during the next session.