

# Teamwork Training, 4/23/11

## The Law of the Price Tag

— Rod Williams

I got up this morning and I was excited, but by the time I got here, I was like, “oh, my!”

Today’s exercise is going to be very challenging. I would like a line of twelve people to line up as a team right here, and another team of twelve over here. If you’ve got more, just alternate so that we have an even number on each side.

Okay; we did the law of accountability, passing an egg. This time, when we put the egg on the spoon, the only person who can put the egg on the spoon is the person holding the basket. We’ll pass it from person to person. If the egg drops, it’s minus-one point. If you use something other than the spoon to hold your egg, it’s minus-two points. When the egg gets to the end, the team captain puts it in the basket and takes it to the other end. At the end of seven minutes, we’ll tally up all the points, and the team may choose a new team captain. Then we’ll have another seven-minute half.

*(One team was ahead by two points at the seven-minute “half time”.  
At the end, however, the other team won by one point.)*

All right; give yourself a hand. How many had fun doing that?

*(Lots of hands)*

Not as much fun as I had watching it. How many think this was the most challenging exercise we’ve had so far?

It’s very important that we have a scoreboard in our life, because it allows us to know where we are. In your reading, John Maxwell talked a lot about sports. How many of us went to school and got a report card?

What did that do for you?

- Made me embarrassed
- Made me proud
- Showed where I needed more work
- Reported to others how you were doing

Let's go over the statements about the scoreboard.

A scoreboard is essential to **understanding**.

A scoreboard is essential to **evaluating**.

A scoreboard is essential to **decision-making**.

A scoreboard is essential to **adjusting**.

A scoreboard is essential to **winning**.

Now, since you had such a great exercise. Team captains, how did the scoreboard help you?

- It let you know if you were winning or not.
- It kept us focused on the goal.

So it gave you an understanding of what was needed. For both teams, I saw this.

- It helped us figure out what areas needed to be enhanced. Some people needed to overcome their weakness.
- It helped people correct their reactions — if the egg started falling, you wanted to grab it, but that was minus two points. So it's better to let it drop.
- We thought we were winning, but the scoreboard helped us realize we were actually behind.
- I used it to move people around. I moved tall people next to tall people, strong people to the front, and fast people to the middle.
- I pretty much let the team members decide what was effective and what was not.

What kind of things did we have to adjust during this exercise?

- We had to adjust how we passed the egg from one person to another; not everyone could do it the same way.
- Some of the eggs were deformed, so you had to adjust how you grabbed them.
- One of the things we did was talk to each other. If a deformed egg was coming, we called it out.

How was the scoreboard essential to winning? I saw the 22–24 score at halftime made some people say, “Oh, no! We’ve got to pick up the pace!” What were some of your reactions?

- I thought, “We’re a better team than that.”
- I thought, “We were close.”
- I thought, “Since we’re ahead, let’s keep doing what is working.”
- My thought was, “My team is always the one that is behind.\*”
- At the half we were ahead, so we wanted to protect our lead. I could feel that they were going to work harder, so we had to work harder, too.
- I was just surprised at how few eggs we moved.
- When I get a little ahead, it makes me nervous, because too many teams start to relax at that point.

It was a close score; 48 to 47. How many of us does it hurt to lose by one? But whenever that two-minute warning came up, I saw one thing. The people were like, “Don’t worry about the scoreboard; let’s just get the eggs.”

How many of you have a budget?

If I only have a hundred dollars in the bank, and this shirt costs a hundred twenty-five, what am I going to do? I can use the credit card, or write a check. I say, “Hmm...” and I write a check. Then I have to do some adjusting and move some money around so the check doesn’t bounce. How do I do that?

- Talk to Sherry.
- Make sure wherever area you pull the money from doesn’t suffer.
- Take the shirt back.

But I *like* the shirt!

On all the lessons we have trained on, I think that this is the one we should focus on. We need something to measure our lives by. If we don’t, we’ll just keep doing things and getting overwhelmed.

Any more questions or comments?

*I look at the Olympics. Each athlete trains to the best of his or her ability. They’re not competing against the scoreboard; they’re competing against themselves.*

*We can learn from one another. Young guys come into the Navy and don't have any idea of how to make a budget. Older guys can help them out.*

*I noticed that other laws came into play as well. The law of the niche, the law of the weak link, and others.*

Pastor Paine and I talked about that as well. This exercise tied together a lot of things.

*What if you're trying to get to a higher level, spiritually? How do you tally up your scoreboard? By how many people you talk to? How do you rate yourself, spiritually?*

I would say it depends on the goal you set for yourself. For me to give you a definite number of Bible studies or prayers, I couldn't do that.

*But how do you rate yourself?*

— Pastor Paine

I want to answer Josh's question, but also tie it to a bigger question. Sometimes you are a team member, and you're on a team, and you think there's no scoreboard. What kind of scoreboard do the ushers have? Sometimes you need to create one. If you're an usher, maybe you look around the room and try to remember everyone's name. I do that. I look around the room and see how many names I can remember. If there's any I can't remember, then I learn it before I leave. You can set your own goals. If you're in a Bible study, you can pray, "God, show me what you want me to learn, and I'll learn it." I read the same chapter several times, and one day I learn something more. You pray for the scoreboard in a sense, and you look for it, and it helps you to be honest. Your goal with the study isn't to look smart, but to help you be a better teacher. How about every time you start to study, you think "I want to learn this so I can teach it." Stephen Covey says that when you study to teach, that's a whole different level than studying to learn.

I'm going to give you directions to Greenbrier mall.

How does that feel?

Now, I'm going to give you directions to Greenbrier mall, and then you're going to tell everyone in the Fellowship hall how to get there.

Did you feel the difference in your mind? Maybe you need to approach your Bible studies that way. I think that every team can have goals, whether they are scoreboard goals or not. What is the goal of a children's church teacher?

*That they learn?*

How about you start the class by saying, “Does anybody remember what we talked about last week?” That’s not an official scoreboard, but it’s one you can set for yourself. I’ve set goals like this: I’ve set a goal that I’m going to smile at everyone I see, and I’m going to smile until they smile back. Some people don’t want to smile back, but if you smile long enough, then they have to.

We had a fellowship picnic when I was visiting our military fellowship in Hawaii. And after the picnic, the fellowship leader asked if I thought it was a success. I said, “I don’t know. What was the goal?” He said, “To have a picnic.” I said, “Can you be more specific?” He said, “To have a picnic. To have fun and relax with each other. I don’t understand why you are asking this question.” I said, “Well, if your goal was evangelism, I wouldn’t say it was a success. But if the goal was to have a good time and relax together, then I’d say it was a great success.”

## **An invitation**

— Jeff Linger

Next week, from 9:30 to 1pm, we’ll be holding an “Apt to Teach” seminar. A lot of us have sit through so many studies throughout the years that we take for granted what we know. But we look around and see a lot of new faces. When we started out, our focus was Bible study, Bible study, Bible study. But now we’re more busy. I’m thankful for the vision of the pastors, but we don’t want to leave people behind. So this series is about being able to take a thought in your mind and effectively teach it to others. You don’t have to be part of the Education Team to help out. There are many techniques we can use at work, at home, and elsewhere. We have a lot of resources that we want to make available. So we’re looking for some helping hands to come out next Saturday. We’re looking for those who need this. Come on out and get plugged in.