



YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO PITCH A PERFECT GAME

with Gage Dollar

▶ FOCUS VERSE

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.
Proverbs 11:2

▶ DISCUSSION

1. Of which sports team, pro or college, are you the most devoted fan?

- a. How did you first become a fan, and what is it about that team that has caused your fandom to endure?
- b. Other than wins and losses, what about the culture of that team or its fanbase are you most proud to identify with?

2. What kinds of interactions do you have with other fans of that team?

- a. What makes you gravitate toward them?
- b. Are your conversations strictly about sports, or have you developed friendships through this team that encompass a number of different shared values and interests?

3. What are some things you think you might be able to accomplish if you applied that same degree of passion or devotion to other areas of your life—family, church, volunteerism, for example? *(See Colossians 3:23 ESV.)*



4. **Gage talks about how fatherhood has taught him the value of “slowing down” and enjoying quiet time unencumbered by activities or responsibilities. Are you the kind of person who can appreciate those moments, or are you more like the way Gage used to be—always needing activity and stimulation? (See *Luke 10:38-42 NIV.*)**
5. **Even as Gage felt called upon to be a leader and role model, he said he was leading “from an insecure heart”—he felt like he had to have a perfect image, which meant concealing his inner struggles and temptations.**
- Did that resonate with you at all?
 - Have you felt like the demands of leadership have caused you to put up a false front in some ways?
 - What kinds of stress has that placed on you?
6. **Would you say you’re good at dealing with or learning from failure? (See *Proverbs 24:16 ESV.*)**
- Of all the failures or disappointments you’ve experienced in your life, which was the one from which you learned the most?
7. **If you’ve found it difficult to learn from or find the “silver lining” in failure, why do you think that is?**
- Do you pressure yourself so much to succeed and be a leader that any setback feels potentially disastrous?
 - Do you feel like other people will think less of you if you fall short of perfection?

