Discussion Guide: *Kicking & Screaming*

*Kicking & Screaming* tells the story of Phil Weston, a soccer parent and coach of his own son who turns from caring dad to abusive coach on a quest to redeem his own struggles as a former soccer player who could not live up to his father’s expectations. This film includes themes of coaching your own child, being a sports parent, over-competitiveness in youth sports, and the coach-parent relationship.

Take advantage of the teachable moments presented in *Kicking & Screaming* by using these questions to help guide a discussion with your team or children.

1.) When Coach Ditka gives Phil coffee, he goes from caring dad to an abusive and overly intense coach. Is this good or bad? Why?

2.) Phil’s father, Buck, was overly intense when Phil was growing up. How did that impact Phil’s behavior throughout the film?

3.) Is Phil’s behavior with parents acceptable? Why or why not?

4.) Many would consider this film ‘satire’ on the overly intense win-at-all-cost culture in youth sports. What is your opinion? Is this comedy or reality?

5.) At the end of the movie, when Phil realizes the error of his ways (being overly intense) is it too late to alter his behavior?

6.) When Phil stops being intense and reverts to caring behavior, is it all coincidence that his team is even more successful and goes on to win the game?

7.) At the end of the final game, Phil refuses to accept his ‘prize’ from Buck. Is this because he realized that there is more to life than winning?