



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #1:

Practice 1: Overview

Welcome

Before or after each practice we will take about 10-15 minutes to have a devotion time together. This devotion time is the most important part of practice because it is when we will learn about God's plan for each one of us.

(Make copies of the next page and hand out to each child on your team. This is the page that has summary of each week's memory verse) The sheet I am handing you now is a list of each week's scriptures to help you learn the verse for the next practice. Be sure to look at your scripture every day so you will know the verse for the next practice.

(Take time to learn your players' names before sharing this first devotion. Ask each player to tell you his or her favorite food, animal, or color. Make a connection with what each player tells you to help remember the person's name.)

Each of you is an answer to prayer and we know that God blesses the faithful servants



OVERVIEW OF SCRIPTURES FOR THE SEASON

Please review and memorize the below scriptures before each practice!

Practice 2:

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you"
Psalm 119:11

Practice 3: Who God Is

"The Lord our God, the Lord is one"
Mark 12:29

Practice 4: Who Man Is

"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God"
Mark 10:27

Practice 5: Who Jesus Is

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"
Matthew 16:16

Practice 6: The Bible

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you"
Colossians 3:16

Practice 7: What kind of SHOT do you have at going to heaven?

"If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."
Romans 10: 9-10

Practice 8: Assurance of Salvation

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said"
Matthew 28:6

Practice 9: Prayer

"Pray continually"
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Practice 10: Making a Difference

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"
Mark 16:15

Practice 11: Review and Challenge

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"
Philippians 3: 14



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #2:

Scripture Learning

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you"
Psalm 119:11

Scripture Memory

Who can say the memory verse for this week?
Give each player an opportunity to say the verse.

Let's all say it together.
Lead the team in saying the memory verse.

(Read or summarize the following devotion for all age groups.)

Last week we talked about how everyone would have the opportunity to participate in learning a Bible verse. Today I want to talk about the importance of learning Scripture. Today's verse is Psalm 119:11. (Spend time saying and repeating the verse, allowing players to practice and learn it. Explain that "your word" refers to the Bible.) I want to explain what this verse means. Once you understand what it means, you'll remember it better.

Why do people put their money in a bank? (Banks keep their money safe.) Why do people put food in a refrigerator? (So it won't spoil and taste bad.) We put things in special places to protect them. What is something valuable that you have? (Allow players to respond.) Do you have a special place where you keep it?

Psalm 119:11 teaches us that our hearts are a special place. Our hearts are where we keep our feelings about others and about ourselves. Our hearts are also where we believe in God. Why do you think our Bible verse today tells us to hide the Bible in our hearts? (Responses might include, "So we won't do or say bad things" or, "We don't always carry the Bible, but we can remember what it says," etc.)

(Select the age-appropriate ending from the following.)

PreK – 4th Grade

Each week we'll review and learn new Bible verses. Let's pray and thank God for the Bible and ask him to help us learn our Bible verses.

5th – 6th Grade

Why do you think we need the Bible? (Explain the significance of the Bible in your own life.) Why is it important to know what the Bible says? How can knowing Bible verses affect your life? When you're faced with making difficult decisions, how can knowing what the Bible says help you?

(When finished, say the following.) Each week we'll review and learn new Bible verses. Let's pray and thank God for the Bible and ask him to help us learn our Bible verses.

Allow for responses and discussion



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #3:

Scripture Learning

Who God Is

"The Lord our God, the Lord is one"

Mark 12:29

Scripture Memory

Who can say the memory verse for this week?

Give each player an opportunity to say the verse.

Let's all say it together.

Lead the team in saying the memory verse.

(Read or summarize the following devotion for all age groups.)

PreK – 2nd Grade

I want everyone to stand up and find a partner. Look at each other, and compare yourselves with each other. What's one thing that is the same about both of you? Say it out loud. (Pause for responses.) Now, find another partner and do the same thing; find one thing that's the same about both of you. Say it out loud. (Pause for responses.) Wow! You can find some way that you're like each person on our team. (Ask the kids to sit down.)

Now let's think about God and you. Can you create the world from nothing? No! But God can. Can you make sick people well? No! But God can. God is the only one who isn't like anyone else. There is only one God. He's bigger and more powerful than we can imagine. Nothing can compare with him.

I'd like all of you to hold up your "Number 1" finger as we say our Bible verse today. "The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Mark 12:29). God stands alone. He is the only God. He is "Number 1." Let's pray and thank God that he is the only God and that no one can compare with him.

3rd – 4th Grade

(Before the devotional, give a penny to one player and ask the child to hide it in his or her pocket or shoe. Explain that the player can't tell anyone that he or she is "the one" with the coin until asked by a teammate.)

I want to play a game today. I've given one person on our team a penny. I want each of you to walk around and whisper, "Are you the one?" If the person you ask is "the one," sit down. If that person is not the one, whisper to another teammate. (Allow time for kids to play the game. When "the one" is identified, ask all kids to sit down.)

It's fun to figure out who is "the one." Did you know that with God, you don't have to ask that question? He is "the one" true God. There is no other. He is the creator of the world. He's the one who loves you more than you can imagine. He is the only God. You can put your trust in him. Our Bible verse today says, "The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Mark 12: 29). Let's pray and thank God for being the one true God, whom we can trust.

5th – 6th Grade

(Start today's devotional by playing Twenty Questions. Think of the word God. Kids will ask you yes-or-no questions to discover who you're thinking about.)

I want to play a game today. I'm thinking of someone. You need to ask me yes-or-no questions to figure out who I'm thinking about. (Allow time for kids to discover that you're thinking of God.)

Yes! I'm thinking of God. You had to ask me questions to know what I was thinking. But what's amazing is that God knows what we're thinking without asking! He is God. He knows everything about you. He created you, and he loves you. Some people will tell you that they know you. They'll try to tell you how to dress, what to think, and how to live. But only God knows all the answers for your life. He gave you the playbook for life in the Bible.

The Bible says, "The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Mark 12:29). That means that there is only one God. You can put your trust in him. Isn't it wonderful to know that he knows everything about you, and you can put your trust in him? Let's pray and thank him for being the one true God.

Allow for responses and discussion



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #4:

Scripture Learning

Who Man Is

"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God"
Mark 10:27

Scripture Memory

Who can say the memory verse for this week?
Give each player an opportunity to say the verse.

Let's all say it together.
Lead the team in saying the memory verse.

(Read or summarize the following devotion for all age groups.)

PreK – 2nd Grade

I'd like everyone to stand up and touch your right toe to your right ear. (Allow time for players to try this.) It's not really possible is it? Humans just can't do everything. But with God, it's different. With God, all things are possible. Can you think of some things God can do? (Allow time for kids to respond. Some answers may include the following: create the world, heal the sick, answer our prayers, etc.)

Yes! He is God, and he can do all those things. He created you and knows all about you. You can put your trust in God because he is all-powerful– he can do everything.

Let's say our Bible verse together. When you say the word impossible, give a thumbs-down. When you say the word possible, give a thumbs-up to God. (Say the verse in unison, and do the hand signals.) Lets pray and thank God for being "big." All things are possible with him.

3rd – 4th Grade

Take a look at the shoes you're wearing. How do those shoes help you to play a game? (Wait for children to respond.) What if you wore dress shoes? Could you do the same thing? Why or why not? (Wait for responses.) Do you think you depend on your shoes to help you play? Sure you do. Those shoes give you traction, stability, and protection. But what happens when they wear out? Can you always depend on them? (Wait for responses.)

Our Bible verse for this week says, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God" (Mark 20:27). Our shoes, just like people, wear out. But God doesn't wear out. He is always the same. He's always powerful. He's always present. You can put your full trust in him. When people let you down, God will not. All things are possible with God. (Coach, this would be a great time to share a personal story about a time you put your trust in God and he helped you.) Let's pray and thank God that all things are possible with him.

5th – 6th Grade

I would like everyone to lie face down on the floor and join hands to make a big circle. Without letting go of each other's hands, I want everyone to stand up. (Allow time for everyone to stand without letting go of each other.)

You did great! It's hard to stand up when you need to depend on one another. At times it seemed almost impossible, didn't it? In life you can depend on family, friends, and teammates to help you. But even though they love you and are committed to you, they're human. Some things are impossible for them. It's not the same with God.

Our Bible verse today says, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God" (Mark 10:27). What do you think that means? (Allow time for kids to respond.) God is big. He knows everything, and he can do everything. There's no situation that you could be in that God doesn't know about. You can put your trust in him. Let's pray and thank God that through him, everything is possible.

(Children this age may ask why bad things happen if God can do all things. Explain that even though bad things happen, God is good. We can't know why he allows bad things to happen. But the Bible tells us that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him" [Romans 8:28].)

Allow for responses and discussion



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #5:

Scripture Learning

Who Jesus Is

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"
Matthew 16:16

Scripture Memory

Who can say the memory verse for this week?
Give each player an opportunity to say the verse.

Let's all say it together.
Lead the team in saying the memory verse.

(Read or summarize the following devotion for all age groups.)

PreK – 2nd Grade

(Ask everyone to sit in a circle and join hands.) I'm going to squeeze one hand, and I want you to pass the squeeze around the circle. (Enjoy playing the squeeze game a couple of times.)

It's fun to pass the power of a squeeze from one person to another. Did you know that God "squeezed," or put his power into, his Son, Jesus? That's right. Jesus Christ is God's Son. The Bible says, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

God sent Jesus from heaven to earth as a baby. Jesus grew into a man and performed miracles, like making blind people see, making lame people walk, and calming a storm to show that he had God's power. Jesus had a great purpose. When the right time came, Jesus died on a cross to pay for our sin. But he didn't stay dead. Because he is God, Jesus rose from the dead! I'm glad I've asked God to forgive me for my sins. I am glad that Jesus is God's Son and that by believing in him, I can live forever with God. Let's pray and thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, to us.

3rd – 4th Grade

I'd like everyone to stand and think of one thing that you do just like your mom or dad. Without saying a word, act out what you both do. (Walk around the group and ask each child what it is he or she is doing.)

Isn't it funny? You aren't the same as your parents—and yet, in a way, you are the same. You're part of them, and they're part of you. It's the same with God and Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. The Bible says, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

God had a very important mission for his Son, Jesus. God loved the world so much that he sent Jesus to die on a cross to pay for the wrong things we do. But Jesus didn't stay dead. Because he is God, he rose from the dead! When you believe and trust in Jesus, you'll live forever with God. Let's pray and thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, to the world.

5th – 6th Grade

How many of you know who the president of the United States is? (George W. Bush) Did you know that his father, George Bush, was also the president of the United States? Do you think George W. Bush inherited some abilities from his dad? I do. George W. Bush has part of his dad in him. Can you think of something you do like one of your parents? (Let children share their answers.)

God has a Son, and his name is Jesus. He's just like God. In fact, he is God. He has the same characteristics as God. Our Bible verse for this week says, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). God sent Jesus to earth to die on a cross for our sins. But Jesus didn't stay dead. Because he is God, he rose from the dead!

If you believe in Jesus, you'll live forever with God in heaven. Isn't it amazing to think that God sent his only Son, Jesus, to earth for us? Let's pray and thank God for giving us eternal life through his Son, Jesus.

Allow for responses and discussion



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #6:

Scripture Learning

The Bible

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you"

Colossians 3:16

Scripture Memory

Who can say the memory verse for this week?

Give each player an opportunity to say the verse.

Let's all say it together.

Lead the team in saying the memory verse.

(Read or summarize the following devotion for all age groups.)

PreK – 2nd Grade

(Ask children to join you in sitting in a circle on the floor. Whisper the following message into the ear of the child sitting to your right: "The Bible is the truth. It's important to our lives." Encourage children to whisper that message to the person to their right until it makes it around the circle. At the end, if the message was correct, say, "Wow! You guys sure were careful to tell the truth of the message." If the message was incorrect, say, "No. That was not the truth. I said, 'The Bible is the truth. It is important to our lives.'")

It's easy to misunderstand what people say isn't it? Everyone thought he or she was telling the truth, but only I knew the truth. It's the same with the Bible. It is true. It tells us everything we need to know to live in a way that's pleasing to God. People may tell you how to act and be, but only the Bible tells the truth of how God wants you to live. Do you want to know the truth about life? Then read your Bible.

The Bible says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you" (Colossians 3:16). We should read the Bible and put its true words in our minds and hearts so we will know how to live. Let's pray and ask God to help us read the Bible and do what it says, because it's important to our lives.

3rd – 4th Grade

(Ask children to find a partner. If one child is left without a partner, be a partner to that child.) I'd like each person to name one thing you like or admire about your teammate. (Allow time for responses.) When you heard the words your teammate said, did you believe them? I hope you did. Many of you know your partner well. You trust them. The words they said went in your mind and heart. But sometimes we're told how to live by people we don't know—like people on TV, people who sing music, or people in the movies. So how do you know what to believe?

The Bible says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you" (Colossians 3:16). To do that, you should read God's Word and let it sink into your mind and heart. The Bible is the truth that will tell you how to live and what to do. It's the truth that is really important to our lives. Even though we need parents and friends to say nice things about us, we especially need to know what God says about us. I hope you'll read the Bible. It's important to your life. Let's pray and ask God to help us read the Bible and do what it says.

5th – 6th Grade

Have you ever been playing a game, and the coach told you to do something? Sometimes you can get distracted because opponents are coming at you, but you must always listen to the coach. The coach's words help you to keep your focus so you'll know exactly what to do.

It's the same with God's Word. The Bible says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you" (Colossians 3:16). What do you think dwell means? (Wait for a response.) When you dwell on Christ's words, they stay in your mind and heart. You can hear them over and over, and they tell you the truth. Then, when you find yourself in a situation and you don't know what to do, you can remember Jesus' words from the Bible.

So, why do you need to read the Bible? (Wait for responses.) Great! You've got it! The Bible is God's Word, and it tells us the truth, which makes it important for our lives. Let's pray and ask God to help us read the Bible so Christ's words will dwell in us.

Allow for responses and discussion



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #7:

Important: Obtain SHOT bracelets from your league commissioner before practice.

***This devotion may take longer than the other devotions. Please plan ahead and be prepared. This is the most important devotion that we do.**

Gospel Presentation

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.
Romans 10: 9-10

PreK – 2nd Grade

Follow these instructions for the Gospel presentation:

1. Review the SHOT presentation on the next page prior to practice.
2. Gather the players for the devotion.
3. Tell them that you have something very important to share with them.
4. Take out one SHOT bracelet and use it to take them through the presentation as explained on the next page.
5. Ask the players to bow their head and close their eyes.
 - a. If you have players that are 7 years old or older, go to #5 below.
 - b. If your players are under 7 years old, just pray for them. We do not ask them to make a decision.

3rd – 6th Grade

Follow these instructions for the Gospel presentation:

1. Review the SHOT presentation on the next page prior to practice.
2. Gather the players for the devotion.
3. Tell them that you have something very important to share with them.
4. Take out one SHOT bracelet and use it to take them through the presentation, as explained on the next page.
5. Ask the players to all bow their head and close their eyes. Ask them to raise their hand if they have never asked Jesus to come into their lives to be their Lord and Savior. Remember the ones that raise their hand.
6. Give each player a chance to receive Christ as Lord and Savior by leading them in the prayer (even if none of them raised their hand). You can have the players say the prayer silently as you say it allowed or you can have them all say it out loud as you say it.
7. When you finish the presentation, give each player a bracelet.
8. The players can keep the SHOT bracelet as a reminder of what Christ did for them. Encourage them to use the bracelet to share with their friends in the neighborhood or friends from school.
9. Find out from each player individually who prayed that prayer for the first time. Turn in a list of those players to the league commissioner so that we can follow up with their decision.



What kind of SHOT do you have at getting into Heaven?

Did you know God's plan was to create us to be a part of His family? That's a cool plan! There is only one way for us to be a part of His family, though. We must believe in His Son, Jesus. During our time together today, I want to talk with you about what Jesus did for us so we could become part of God's family. I have something in my hand that will help us understand this.

Heaven

The Gold on the bracelet represents Heaven.

Our goal is to get to Heaven and spend eternity with our loving God. Philippians 3:14 says, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

S

The "S" on the bracelet represents "Separation" from God and the black represents sin.

The Bible tells us that because of our sin we are separated from God. Our perfect God cannot allow our sin into Heaven. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

H

The "H" on the bracelet represents "Help" and the red represents the blood of Jesus.

Because our sin separates us from God, there is nothing that we can do on our own to get into Heaven. We need His help. Because of God's grace, He provided that help for us by sending his son Jesus who died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

O

The "O" on the bracelet represents "Offer" and the white represents "free from sin."

Because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross and rose from the grave, we have the opportunity to be free from those sins. God does this by offering us the free gift of eternal life in Heaven. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Acts 3:19 says, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out."

T

The "T" on the bracelet represents "Take the gift" and the green represents our new life.

Like any gift, we don't have it unless we take it. When we do take this free gift, we are given a new life. But how do we take the gift? The Bible says in Romans 10: 9-10, 13...

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved...For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

+

Bow your head and close your eyes. If you have never prayed and asked Jesus to come into your heart and you would like to do that today, simply raise your hand while everyone has their eyes closed. (Remember the ones that raise their hands.) You can put your hands down. Today you have the opportunity to make your SHOT at Heaven 100% guaranteed. Repeat this prayer silently while I pray allowed:

"Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner and I need a Savior. I believe You died on the cross for my sins. I repent from my sins and ask that You please forgive them. Come into my life and help me to follow You. I love You, Jesus. Thank you for loving me first. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer with a sincere heart, the Bible tells us that you are a part of God's family and will have an eternal life in heaven. I want to give each one of you your own SHOT bracelet. I encourage you to use the bracelet to share with others how they can be a part of God's family. I'm very proud of everyone on this team.

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2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #8:

Scripture Learning

Assurance of Salvation

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said"
Matthew 28:6

Scripture Memory

Who can say the memory verse for this week?
Give each player an opportunity to say the verse.

Let's all say it together.
Lead the team in saying the memory verse.

(Read or summarize the following devotion for all age groups.)

PreK – 2nd Grade

(Wear a hat during the devotional today.) I'm glad we get to meet again to think about Jesus. I want you all to close your eyes. (Remove your hat and tuck it partway into the back of your waistband.) OK, open your eyes. What's different about me? (Wait for children to figure out that you've taken off your hat.) How do you know I had a hat on? Can you prove it? (Turn around so kids can see the hat and "prove" that you had one.)

Great! You proved that I had a hat. Did you know that Jesus proved that he was God? That's right! A couple of practices ago, we talked about Jesus being God's Son. Jesus came to earth and died on a cross for our sin. But then he rose from the dead, proving to everyone that he is really God. Do people normally rise from the dead? No! Only God can do that.

Our Bible verse for this week says, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said" (Matthew 28:6). Let's pray and thank God that we can believe Jesus because he died and rose again.

3rd – 4th Grade

I'd like one person who trusts me to be a volunteer. (Choose one child.) Today I'm going to see how much you trust me. (Talk to the child.) I want you to turn around, with your back to me. Then, on the count of three, I want you to fall back into my arms, and I'll catch you. (Demonstrate how you'll catch the child.) How did you feel knowing that I would catch you before you hit the ground?

Let's think about God for a minute. God did something amazing to show us that he is really the only powerful God and that we can trust him. He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin. Then, after Jesus was buried for three days, God raised him from the dead. Jesus was dead, and God made him come back to life so that when we die, we will live forever with God in heaven. Our Bible verse for this week says, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said" (Matthew 28:6). God proved his love and power by raising Jesus from the dead. Let's pray and thank God that we can be sure we will go to heaven if we believe that Jesus rose again.

5th – 6th Grade

I'd like one person who trusts me to be a volunteer. (Choose one child.) Today I'm going to see how much you trust me. (Talk to the child.) I want you to turn around with your back to me. Then, on the count of three, I want you to fall back into my arms. I will catch you. (Demonstrate how you'll catch the child. Before everyone finds a partner, review safety tips.) Now I want each of you to find a partner. On the count of three, I want one person to fall back into another person's arms. (Let kids do this a few times.)

With this little experiment you had to put your faith and trust in your teammate. Let's think about God for a minute. Have you put your trust in him? Do you believe in him? You may think it's hard to have faith in God when you can't see him, but God sent Jesus to earth. He died on a cross and rose from the dead! The Bible says, "He is not here; he has risen just as he said" (Matthew 28:6). God made Jesus alive again to prove that he is God. You can trust in him because he is the real God. Let's pray and thank God that we can put our faith and trust in him because of his Son, Jesus.

Allow for responses and discussion



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #9:

Scripture Learning

Prayer

"Pray continually"

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Scripture Memory

Who can say the memory verse for this week?

Give each player an opportunity to say the verse.

Let's all say it together.

Lead the team in saying the memory verse.

(Read or summarize the following devotion for all age groups.)

PreK – 2nd Grade

What does it mean to pray? (Wait for a response.) When you pray, you're talking to God. Perhaps you're telling him that you love him or asking him for something. God loves it when we pray. (Tell about a time in your life when you prayed and received an answer from God.)

Isn't it wonderful to know that God wants us to talk to him? He loves us. Let's take some time today to pray together. Does anyone have something that you would like us to pray about? (Wait for a response.) OK, let's pray about it. (Pray for the request. Then ask for another request. Stop after each request and say a short prayer to God.)

I'm glad you told us about the things you wanted to pray about. Everything is important to God. First Thessalonians 5: 17 says, "Pray continually." That means we should pray about everything. I want to pray once again, but this time I want to thank God that we can pray about everything.

3rd – 4th Grade

(Be prepared to tell about a time in your life when you prayed and received an answer from God.) I want you to close your eyes. Now, think about God. Is he big? Is he powerful? Does he know everything? Can he do everything? OK, open your eyes. God is that way. He does know everything.

Did you know that the same God who made the universe wants you to talk to him? He does! When we talk to God, it's called prayer. We can pray about anything and everything. You don't have to use big words or pray for a long time. God just wants you to spend time with him. In fact, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray continually." That means we should pray all the time.

I want us to pray together today. I'd like everyone to sit in a circle. I'll start the prayer by saying, "Thank you, God, for..." (Finish the sentence.) Now, you say, "Thank you, God, for..." It doesn't matter what you thank God for— it only matters that you are serious and truthful in your heart. (Allow time for each child to complete the sentence prayer.) This time, let's finish this prayer sentence: "God, please help me to..." (Allow time for children to express their concerns to God. If any children hesitate, assure them that they can just think their concern, and God will still "hear" their prayer. After all children have finished, close in prayer, asking God to remind everyone to pray every day.)

5th – 6th Grade

(Be prepared to tell about a time in your life when you prayed and received an answer from God.) From what we've learned in our devotion time together, what are some things we know about God? (Allow for responses, and affirm the players' answers.) Did you know that the same God we've been talking about at every practice wants you to talk with him? It's amazing to think that the God who knows everything wants us to spend time talking with him. In fact, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray continually." God wants us to tell him what we're thankful for and also how he can help us with concerns in our lives. God never gets tired of hearing us pray. He may not answer our prayers the way we want, but he promises to do what's best for us. We must keep going to him over and over and pray about everything.

I want you to think about something you want to pray about. Let's spend a few minutes praying to God.



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #10:

Scripture Learning

Making a Difference

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"
Mark 16:15

Scripture Memory

Who can say the memory verse for this week?
Give each player an opportunity to say the verse.

Let's all say it together.
Lead the team in saying the memory verse.

(Read or summarize the following devotion for all age groups.)

PreK – 2nd Grade

(For this devotion, bring a trophy or a newspaper clipping of a winning team, or think of story about a winning team.) Take a look at what I brought today. (Show the item or tell your story.) It's always fun to win. What are some things you do when you win? (Let children share.)

Winning is so exciting that you want to tell everyone you know. The same is true when you put your trust in Jesus. When you trust in Jesus, you become a child of God, and that makes you a real winner! God doesn't want you to sit around and keep quiet. He wants you to tell everyone about what happened to you. Our Bible verse for this week says, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15). What is this good news? (Wait for children to tell you about salvation and that Jesus loves us.) That's right! The good news we should tell everyone is, "Jesus loves you." Let's shout this good news together: "Jesus loves you!" (Lead the group in shouting together.) Let's pray and ask God to help us tell everyone about Jesus.

3rd – 4th Grade

(Choose one person to be the leader.) I'd like the leader to come to the front of the group. Now I want everyone to line up behind the leader.

Follow the leader and do whatever he or she asks you to do. (Get in line with children and play Follow the Leader.) It's easy to follow a leader when you know that person. Many of you are following Jesus—you've put your trust in him. Now God wants you to tell other people how to put their trust in Jesus and follow him. Mark 16:15 says, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

A simple way to tell others about Jesus is to remember your ABC's. To begin a relationship with Jesus, first you have to Admit that you sin and need a savior. Next, Believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin. Then Commit yourself to God by asking him to forgive your sin and putting your trust in him.

Let's practice telling others about Jesus. Turn to the person next to you and tell him or her how to follow Jesus. (Allow time for children to share.) Great! When you tell others about Jesus, it makes God happy, because others will follow Jesus too. Let's pray and ask God for boldness to tell others about Jesus.

5th – 6th Grade

I'd like everyone to sit in a circle. Turn and put your hands on the shoulders of the person to your right. Give that person a shoulder massage. (Join children in the circle, and give a massage.) Now I'd like you to follow me as I change the massage a little. (Gently tap the shoulders of the person you're massaging. Encourage everyone to follow your lead. Keep changing the type of massage you're giving and waiting for everyone to follow you.) Awesome, you really followed my lead.

In Mark 16:15 Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." A follower of Jesus tells other people about how to begin a relationship with him. How do you tell someone about Jesus? It's easy— just remember your ABC's. To become a Christian, you first must Admit that you sin and need a savior. Next, Believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin. Then Commit yourself to God by asking him to forgive your sin and putting your trust in him.

Let's practice telling others about Jesus. Find a partner, and tell him or her how to become a Christian. (Wait for children to share.) Great! I think you're ready! Let's pray and ask God to help us follow Jesus by telling everyone about him.



2010-2011 Game Plan Devotion for Practice #11:

Scripture Learning

Review and Challenge

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"
Philippians 3: 14

Scripture Memory

Who can say the memory verse for this week?

Give each player an opportunity to say the verse.

Let's all say it together.

Lead the team in saying the memory verse.

(Read or summarize the following devotion for all age groups.)

We've had a great season! As we wrap up our Maverick Basketball season this week, I want to share this verse with you. Philippians 3:14 says, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." To press on means never to give up. God has given us the greatest gift we will ever receive, the gift of eternal life through his Son, Jesus. Even though life is hard, the Bible tells us that God is with us and will help us along the way.

Before we pray and continue practicing, I want to say something I've noticed each of you doing that has made our team better this season. (Share one important quality or action that you noticed in each player.) We have learned some important things this season about God, Jesus, and ourselves. I'm proud of everyone on this team, and I've really enjoyed being your coach. Let's pray and thank God for a great basketball season.