

CHAMP SPORTS DEVOTIONAL



FALL 2020

CHAMP Office – 704.341.5387
Weather Hotline – 704.341.5473
www.champsportsinfo.com

Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

Mini Season Schedule

September 14 – October 10

Groups meet once a week for 1 ½ hours.

Meeting format: 1) Warm-ups and skill building (30 minutes). 2) Devotion (10 minutes). 3) Scrimmage (50 minutes).

For any questions or concerns,
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Weather Hotline: 704.341.5473
Updated Mon-Fri. at 3:00 PM; Sat. at 7:30 AM

Join us weekly for Sunday morning
worship via livestream or in person. Check
www.calvarychurch.com for details and times.

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

Week of September 14-19, 2020

Welcome to CHAMP Sports! We are excited that you are here! During devotion time over the next weeks we will be talking about spiritual disciplines. A spiritual discipline is something that God's children do in order to grow strong in Jesus. Everyone wants to have a happy and meaningful life. Practicing spiritual disciplines will help us live happy and meaningful lives!

We know from the Bible that God created each one of us. This is important because it means that God knows exactly how we each work and what we were made for. Just like an engineer knows how the plane or car that he or she designed works, God knows how we work.

God made us to worship Him. How do we do worship God? First, we need to think about God's worth. How valuable is God? God is more valuable than everything that He has created put together! The fact is that without God holding all things together by the Word of His power, everything would fall apart. Nothing can exist without God. Therefore, the worth of God is more than all created things!

Second, in order to worship God, we must think about God's goodness. Jesus told us that, "No one is good, but God" (Mark 10:18). God's goodness is perfect. There is no darkness in God. He never thinks or does anything that is wrong or bad. Everything He does is right and good. When we think of God's perfect goodness, we know that He is worthy of all of our praise and worship.

Third, once we have thought about who God is and what He does, we should sing His praises with our mouths and in our hearts. Think of how excited you get when you watch your favorite athlete play. You tell all your friends and family and anyone who will listen how much you enjoyed watching your favorite player play. You remember all their best moves. You remember all their stats. Worshiping God is similar, except that God's works are more wonderful than any person's, and God Himself is greater than all of His creations.

What are some of the marvelous things that God has done? He has defeated Satan, sin, and death at the cross of Christ. He has provided eternal life for us in His Son, Jesus. He has given us many great and precious promises that encourage us and give us hope! And He has done so much more, so let's worship Him in spirit and truth, today, and every day!

Luke 4:8

And Jesus answered him, "It is written, ***'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'***"

Questions: Why is God worthy of our worship? What are some of the things that you love about God? What does it mean to serve the Lord God? Is the Lord your God?

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Scripture

Week of September 21-26, 2020

The Bible is God's Word. We know from the Bible that, "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him" (Proverbs 30:5).

Sometimes it is hard to know what is true and what is false. Ever since Adam and Eve believed the first lie in the Garden of Eden, the world has been full of lies. God doesn't want us to believe lies! He wants us to know the truth. One of the many reasons that God wrote the Bible is so that we can know the truth and the truth can set us free!

It is a very good thing to read the Bible. It is an even better thing to study the Bible. What's the difference between reading and studying? We can read a book quickly, but we can't study a book quickly. Studying something means looking at it closely and thinking about it carefully. Studying means asking questions like, "What does this mean?", "How does this work?", "Why was this written?"

If you look in the grass, you might see a grasshopper. Seeing a grasshopper is not the same thing as studying a grasshopper. To study a grasshopper, we would need to carefully watch the grasshopper for many days. We would need to see where it goes, what it eats, where it sleeps. Studying a grasshopper takes a lot of time. It is hard work!

God wants us to study His Bible. He wants us to ask for wisdom to understand His Bible. He wants us to ask lots of questions and think about His Bible. If we spend our lives studying God's Bible, we will grow very wise.

Wisdom is a very valuable thing. In the Bible, God tells us, "Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight" (Proverbs 4:5-7).

Wisdom comes from God. Thus, if we want to get wisdom, we must get it from God. The Bible is full of God's wisdom. The Bible also points us to Jesus who is "wisdom from God" (1 Corinthians 1:30). Studying the Bible is something that we should do every day. If you don't have a Bible, let your coach know. We would like to help you get a Bible so that you can grow in wisdom!

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Questions: What is your favorite Bible verse? What part of the Bible would you like to study next?

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Giving and Service

Week of September 28-October 3, 2020

“God is Love” (1 John 4:8). What is love? What does love do?

Love puts others first. Love gives. Love serves. Love looks to make other people happy and healthy. We were created to be loved and to love. We were made for love.

God tells us that humans were made in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). We were made in the image of Love! We were designed to love others. However, we are not love like God is love. God alone is Love. We weren't made to be Love but to be filled with Love.

Love wants to give. Love wants to serve. It is God's delight to give life to us and to care for us like a parent cares for a child. As God fills us with Himself, we will want to give and we will want to serve because the life of God in us wants to give and serve.

We know those who are God's children by their love: “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:7-8). When God is living inside of us, we will be compelled to love others because God living inside of us wants to love. When we love, we will give of our time, money, and energy to others in all kinds of generous service.

The Christian life is one of freedom—freedom to love. The Apostle Paul tells us, “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).

Christians are free in Christ Jesus to give of themselves and to serve others because God has given Himself to us and has sent His Spirit to minister to us. We give and serve out of God's eternal abundance, not out of the weakness of our human flesh.

If you haven't been “born of God,” and in your heart you know that you need to be born again, today is the day! Ask God to give you eternal life in Jesus Christ. What must you do to be saved? “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). Believing in Jesus means letting go of your life and letting God take hold of your life. He will be your God and Father, and you will be His son or daughter. If you have questions about being “born of God,” just ask. We'd love to talk with you about it!

Philippians 4:19

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Questions: What has God given to you? Have you been “born of God”?

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Prayer

Week of October 5-10, 2020

What is prayer? Prayer is talking with God. Prayer is sharing your thoughts and heart with God and letting Him share His thoughts and heart with you. Isn't it a wonderful thing that God wants to talk with us? God did not make us to be alone. God made us for Himself. He made us to spend our lives walking with Him, talking with Him, and knowing Him.

How often does God want us to pray? God tells us, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

To pray "without ceasing" means to be praying all of the time. How can we be praying all of the time? Is it really possible? To pray "without ceasing" is an attitude. It is an openness to God. It is always being ready for God to teach you. It is looking for God to lead you through life like a shepherd leads his sheep. It is asking God questions. It is sharing your worries with God and asking Him to take your burdens and carry them for you.

"Praying without ceasing" is something we must practice. Just like a baby has to learn how to roll over, sit up, crawl, and walk before he or she can run, so we have to practice praying without ceasing before we can get really good at it. Our first thought usually isn't of God each day, but we can practice greeting God each morning and beginning our day looking to Him for wisdom, direction, and joy in His Spirit.

Many, if not all of us, pray when there is trouble in our lives. It is good to pray when things are hard. God wants us to pray when things aren't going well: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). There is no one who is better at comforting us when we are sad or scared than God Himself!

However, God doesn't want us to pray just when things are bad. God wants to be our friend—our very best friend! He wants to share His joy with us, and He wants us to share our lives with Him. "Praying always" is not a hard and difficult thing. It is joyous and fun. It is spending time with Someone who loves us and wants our lives to be full of His abundant, everlasting life!

Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Questions: What do you usually talk with God about? What has God been teaching you lately?

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