

# **CHAMP SPORTS DEVOTIONAL**



## **FALL 2021**

CHAMP Office – 704.341.5387  
Weather Hotline – 704.341.5473  
[www.champsportsinfo.com](http://www.champsportsinfo.com)

# Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

## Season Schedule

**Practices Begin:** Week of August 23

**Uniform Distribution:** Week of August 23

**Game Schedules:** Week of August 30

**Opening Day:** Saturday, September 11

**Season Ends:** Saturday, November 6

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Updated Mon-Fri. at 3:00 PM; Sat. at 7:30 AM

Join us weekly for Sunday morning  
worship at 9:45 AM in person or via livestream.

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

# Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

*Week of August 23-27, 2021*

Welcome to CHAMP Sports! Devotions is a great time to slow down for a bit and get to know God. God is wonderful. This season we are going to talk about wonderful He is.

When you think of God, what do you think about? Where He is? How big He is? How strong He is? How perfect He is? His love? His righteousness? There are so many wonderful things that are true of God!

In the Bible, we learn that God is a “God of wonders.” What’s a wonder? A wonder is something that is awesome and amazing. Often a wonder takes our breath away and leaves us speechless. There are many wonders recorded in the Bible. We are going to look at a number of them over the next weeks.

The greatest wonder of all is God Himself. God is beyond all of creation. He is greater than all of creation. He dwells in “unapproachable light” (1 Timothy 6:16). He knows everything about everything. There is nothing hidden from Him. He knows our every thought, our every feeling, and our every intention.

God is good. Everything He does is right. He is merciful and mighty. He is loving, and He is just. He does not change. He is eternally perfect. God is wonderful in power and majesty, in beauty and in kindness. He is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Psalm 86:15).

We are called to fear the LORD because, “There is no injustice with the LORD our God, or partiality or taking bribes” (2 Chronicles 19:7). God will never do that which is wrong or approve of that which is wrong. Since God always does what is right, we can hope in Him and we can trust Him. That is wonderful!

There are many more things that are wonderful about God. As you read God’s Book, the Bible, you will learn more and more about the wonderful God who made you.

God wants you to know Him. He wants you to know His heart and His thoughts. He wants to share His life with you. That is wonderful!

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**Isaiah 9:6**

**His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

*Questions: What does it mean to trust someone? In what ways do you trust God?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# Life

*Week of August 30-September 3, 2021*

This season we are talking about God's wonders. In the first couple chapters of the Bible, God tells us about how He made the heavens and the earth and everything that is in them.

Life is a miracle. Life is one of God's wonders. God took the dust of the earth, formed a man with it, and breathed into him the breath of life, and the man became a living soul. What a tremendous moment in history that was! One moment there was just a body made of dust, and the next, there was a living person who was able to think, understand, speak, feel, love, and have a relationship with the living God.

God did not only make the man and the woman; He made every other living thing that fills the earth, from the animals to the plants. He gave life to all of these things after their own kind.

Think of the wonder of natural life. One tomato seed, when planted in good soil and taken care of properly, can produce around 100 tomatoes. Each one of those tomatoes could have around 100 seeds. So, just one tomato seed could make around 10,000 new tomato plants! The life that God creates is abundant!

Natural life is amazing, but God's supernatural, eternal life is even more wondrous! Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

The abundant life that we have when we believe in Jesus Christ does so many incredible things. It gives us the hope that we will be forever with God in the new heavens and earth. It promises us that someday soon our bodies will be changed into incorruptible bodies that never get sick, never get tired, and never die. It provides us with strength, encouragement, joy, peace, love, and all of the fruits of God's righteousness.

To be truly alive in the life of God is wonderful! It is what we were created for. Apart from God there is only death, decay, destruction, and confusion. In Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit is the life of God, which is strong, abundant, refreshing, and delightful. All of the good things that our hearts and souls seek are in God. He is Life. He is Abundant Life. He is the LORD, The Fountain of Living Waters.

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**Jeremiah 10:10**

**But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King.**

*Questions: What does it mean that God is the "living God"? What is God's life like?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# God's Promises

*Week of September 7-11, 2021*

What is a promise? A promise is saying that we will do something or that something will happen. A promise is a very serious thing. In the Bible, God tells us to be very careful when we make promises. He says, "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one" (Matthew 5:37).

God is very serious about the promises that He makes. When He gives His word, He never breaks it. He is so serious about His promises that when He made a promise to Abraham He swore on Himself: "For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you" (Hebrews 6:13-14).

For God to swear by Himself meant that if God didn't do what He said, then God would cease to exist. Of course, that is impossible, and therefore Abraham knew that what God had promised would come true!

God wants each one of us to believe Him like Abraham believed Him. When God made a promise to Abraham, Abraham believed God. Abraham didn't doubt God. Abraham didn't question God. Abraham didn't go and talk to other people to find out what they thought about God's promises. Abraham simply believed God.

It is hard to believe God if we don't know Him. We must diligently seek Him. We must want to know who He is and what He is like. As we learn about Him and we talk with Him in prayer, we will see His love for us in action. When we read the Bible we will see what He thinks, what He does, and who He is. We will see that He is good, that He is right, that He is Light and that in Him there is no darkness. When we see that God is the good Father, the kind King, the powerful Protector, the wise Judge, the Almighty Creator, and Eternal, Abundant Life, it is easy to trust Him.

Perhaps the greatest promise that God has made to us is, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b). That is a wonderful promise! It means that if we are God's children, God will always be with us to be whatever we need in every moment of our lives!

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**1 John 2:25**

**And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.**

*Questions: Will God ever break one of His promises? Why not?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# Signs and Wonders

*Week of September 13-18, 2021*

Sometimes we might feel like we are small and our problems are big. This is probably how the children of Israel felt when they were slaves in the land of Egypt.

The life of an Israelite slave in the land of Egypt wasn't a lot of fun. They worked all day doing hard work. They mixed mud and straw together to make bricks, and then they built the great buildings of Egypt. That didn't get time off or vacations. They just ate, worked, and slept. And it only got worse and worse as the king of Egypt, the Pharaoh, kept increasing the amount of work they had to do each day. They were tired. They were sad. They groaned and cried out because of their slavery, and God heard their cry for help.

The problems that Israel faced in Egypt were huge. Pharaoh was a very powerful king, and he had no intention of letting God's people go. Pharaoh worshiped the little "g" gods of Egypt. He even thought of himself as a god. He thought that he was the god of the sun. Pharaoh believed that he and the gods of Egypt were more powerful than the God of Israel. Thus, when Moses came with the message that the God of Israel wanted Pharaoh to let His people go, Pharaoh just laughed, and said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2).

When Pharaoh refused to let God's people go, God began to bring many signs and wonders on Egypt. Each sign and wonder was meant to show that the so-called gods of Egypt were powerless against the true God. God showed His power over the Nile River, over the weather, over the frogs, and flies, and grasshoppers, over health, and light, and life itself.

The wonders that God did in Egypt are still talked about today. We are still amazed by His power over creation. We still remember how God opened the Red Sea so that His people could walk through the sea on dry land, and how He closed the Red Sea over the armies of Egypt, destroying them completely.

The signs and wonders that God did in Egypt were little pictures of what God planned to do to Satan and his armies when Jesus came to deliver people from Satan's kingdom of darkness. Just like Israel walked through the Red Sea on dry ground, Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose again. Jesus is the Savior of the world. That is wonderful!

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## **Psalm 77:11**

**"I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old."**

*Questions: What are some of the miracles that Jesus did while He was here on earth?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# God's Provision

*Week of September 20-25, 2021*

Does God ever need anything? No, God doesn't ever need anything. He is endless life. He is eternal supply. He is the "I AM." God doesn't need anything, but we do. We need air to breathe. We need water to drink. We need food to eat. We need many things, both for our bodies and for our spirits. God knows what we need because He made us.

In the Bible, God tells us that many people spend their lives trying to get food, drink, and clothes, but that His children, because they have a heavenly Father who is good and who is love, should "seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things (like food, drink, and clothes) will be added to us (Matthew 6:31-33).

In the Bible, there was a woman who was in need of food for her and her son. One day, the prophet Elijah came to the town where the woman lived, and he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand" (1 Kings 17:10-11). But, the woman only had the smallest amount of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. She only had enough food to make one more meal for her and her son!

Now the Word of the LORD had promised Elijah that this woman would feed him. Elijah believed the Word of the LORD, so he told the woman not to fear and that she should make a meal for her and her son but that first she should make him a little cake from the flour and oil she had left and that the flour and oil would not run out until the day that the LORD sent rain upon the earth.

What do you think happened? Was Word of the LORD right? The Bible says that the woman, "went and did as Elijah said. And she and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the Word of the LORD that He spoke by Elijah" (1 Kings 17:15-16).

When we have a need, we should bring our need to God in prayer. God wants to take care of all of our physical needs—food, drink, clothes—and our spiritual needs—eternal life, joy, peace, strength, encouragement, and every other good thing that we have in Jesus Christ our Lord!

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**Philippians 4:19**

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

*Questions: Why does God provide for us? What are some ways that we can love other people?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# God's Protection

*Week of September 27 – October 2, 2021*

When we look around us with our natural eyes, we see each other; we see grass; we see trees; we see many things, but we don't see God. Why not? God is Spirit. He is everywhere, but He is invisible to our natural eyes.

There is a spiritual world all around us that we can't see with our natural eyes. It is the world of God, our spirits, and angels. God created the angels. Some of them, including Satan, fell and became God's enemies. Angels are more powerful than we are, but God is infinitely more powerful than the angels that He created, and He is the Protector of His children.

God's angels have a job to do. In the Book of Hebrews in the Bible, we learn that angels are "ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14). There seem to be different kinds of angels. Some, called seraphim, meaning "burning ones," have six wings, and they fly on either side of God's throne and cry out, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (Isaiah 6:3). Some, like Gabriel, brought God's messages to His people. Some, like Michael, are protectors of God's people.

Elisha was one of God's prophets. He went around speaking God's words to people and teaching the people how to know God and walk with God. As Elisha was doing his job, the king of Syria became angry with him and sent horses and chariots and a great army to get him. The army came at night and surrounded the city where Elisha and his servant were. When Elisha's servant saw the army he said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" (2 Kings 6:15). Elisha said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kings 6:16-17).

The horses and chariots of fire that surrounded Elisha were from God. God was watching over Elisha. As the Syrian army came to get Elisha, at Elisha's prayer, God struck them all with blindness until Elisha was safe. It is wonderful to know that the God of the Bible is able to do wonders to protect His children. That gives us courage, boldness, and joy!

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**Proverbs 18:10**

**The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.**

*Questions: How strong is God? Is there anything that God can't do that He wants to do?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**



# The God Who Heals

*Week of October 4-9, 2021*

Do you know what the name “Jesus” means? The name “Jesus” means “God is Salvation.” God doesn’t just *give* salvation. He *is* salvation. Outside of God there is darkness and chaos. Inside of God there is harmony and light. As long as God is outside of our lives, our lives will fall apart. When God comes into our lives, His health and well-being come into us and makes us whole.

God’s plan for His children is to save us spirit, soul, and body. Someday, we will be made perfect in Jesus Christ. Every part of who we are will be saved to the uttermost. Right now, God’s children are in the process of being saved. If we believe in Jesus and have been born again by the Holy Spirit, then our spirits are 100% saved. God lives inside of us as our Father and our King. Each day He is working towards the salvation of our souls. He is transforming our thoughts. He is joining our wills to His will. He is filling our hearts with His love, His goodness, and His kindness. The part of us that God isn’t directly saving right now is our bodies. Our bodies will be saved fully on the day of Jesus Christ when in the twinkling of an eye, we will be changed. However, that doesn’t mean that God doesn’t care about our bodies or want our bodies to be healthy or have the power to heal our bodies! He does!

There was once a man named Naaman. In the Bible we learn that Naaman was “a mighty man of valor,” but that he also had a terrible skin disease. One day, a little girl from the land of Israel who worked for Naaman’s wife said that if only Naaman was with Elisha, God’s prophet, he would be healed of his skin disease. So, Naaman went to Elisha’s house, and Elisha sent a messenger out who told Naaman, “Go and wash in the Jordan [River] seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean” (2 Kings 5:10). Naaman did not like this at all. He wanted Elisha to come out of his house and wave his hands around and make him clean. He didn’t want to go and wash in a dirty river! But, he was encouraged to obey the word that came from God through Elisha, and humbling himself, he did. And God healed him of his terrible skin disease!

Jesus healed many people in the Bible in order to demonstrate that God has the power and authority to heal not only our bodies but every part of us. God wants to fill you with Himself and make you well! Do you have a personal relationship with the God who heals?!

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**John 17:17**

**Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.**

*Questions: How does God’s Word clean our hearts? Is God living inside of you?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# Eternal Salvation (Invitation Week)

*Week of October 11-16, 2021*

Today, we are going to talk about the wonder of God's eternal salvation. God's salvation isn't halfway, or pretty good, it is 100%, and it is amazing!

God's salvation is two things: 1) being **saved from** sin, death, destruction, and Satan's kingdom, 2) being **saved to** obey God, live in God's everlasting life, and become a member of God's family.

In order to be saved, we must believe the Gospel. The Gospel starts with God. God made us. He is Authority. He decides what is right and wrong, true and false, good and evil. He is God.

When God made us, He had a plan for us. He made people to have a relationship with Him. He wants to be our Father, and He wants us to be His children. He wants us to listen to Him and learn from Him and live life with Him. One day, the serpent (also known as Satan), tempted Adam and Eve, our first parents, to stop listening to God and instead go their own way and do what was right in their own eyes. Adam and Eve obeyed the voice of the serpent instead of the voice of God. Disobeying God's voice is sin. According to God, the penalty for sin is death.

Since Adam and Eve fell, no person has ever been able to live a perfectly righteous life, except for one Person, God's Son, Jesus Christ. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to reverse what Adam and Eve did. Instead of rebelling against God and doing what was right in His own eyes, Jesus always did the things which pleased His Father (John 8:29). This made Jesus a perfect, sinless Human Being!

God sent Jesus into this world to save the world. How did Jesus save the world? First, He lived a perfect human life. Then, He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. After that, He was buried, and on the third day, God raised Him from the dead. When Jesus rose from the dead, the power of sin, death, darkness, and Satan was broken! A Human Being had lived a perfectly righteous life! He had conquered sin and death! Jesus' resurrection was the beginning of God's new creation, which will last forever and ever!

In the new creation, people worship God instead of self. In the new creation, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and joined to the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we have eternal life and every spiritual blessing!

What must we do to be saved by Jesus Christ? We must believe upon Him. Do you believe in Jesus?

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**Acts 16:31**

**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.**

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# The Holy Spirit

Week of October 18-23, 2021

Ten days after Jesus left this world and went to sit down on the right hand of His Father in Heaven, Jesus' disciples were gathered together in one place, and "suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2). What do you think the sound was? The sound was the sound of the Holy Spirit rushing in to fill God's people with His presence. Finally, through what Jesus had done on the cross to reconcile us to God, we who believe in God could be filled with God's presence!

In the Old Testament, God lived in a temple made with human hands, but now, through Jesus, God lives inside of His people! This is almost too wonderful to believe! The God who made everything wants to live inside of us!

Think of a house. If you turn off all of the lights and open all of the windows on a winter night, the house will be cold and dark. This is what life is like apart from God. Humans were not made to live independently of God. We were made to be the place where God lives.

Now imagine the house glowing with light and warmth. Our bodies are to be *that* house. The light and warmth is God Himself living in us by the Holy Spirit.

When we meet people who are walking in the Spirit, we sense God's presence in them. They are full of God's wisdom. They are bursting with supernatural joy. They have God's peace that passes understanding in their hearts. They know God and are walking in the good works that He has prepared for them to do. They have purpose. They have courage. They are more than conquerors through Him who loved them (Romans 8:37).

How do we become like that? First we believe in Jesus and God causes us to be born again by the Holy Spirit. Then, we learn to rely on God and His grace day by day. God will give us a hunger for His Word. We will want to know what He thinks. We will want to be a part of whatever He is doing. God will become the central focus of our lives, and we will grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will help us on our journey through this life. He will guide us, teach us, and comfort us as we make our way towards God's eternal kingdom. That is wonderful! The Holy Spirit is wonderful!

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## **Romans 14:17**

**The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

*Questions: Have you received God's Holy Spirit? How do you know?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# God's Family

*Week of October 25-30, 2021*

God created families. Family is very important to God. Family is where we develop deep and meaningful relationships. Christians refer to one another as “brother” and “sister” because all Christians are part of the family of God.

In the family of God, there is the Father, His Son (Jesus Christ), the Holy Spirit, and all of us who believe in Jesus.

To call God Father is a very special thing. It means that we have moved beyond just knowing God as God and King, and now know him as Father. To know God as Father means that we feel comfortable sharing our deepest thoughts and feelings with Him. It means that we trust Him, we love Him, and we want to spend time with Him.

When Jesus came into the world, He showed us what it is like to walk through life with God the Father. Each day, Jesus woke up excited to see what His Father was doing. He wanted to be a part of whatever works the Father was doing. On one occasion Jesus said to the Jewish people, “If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father” (John 10:37-38).

Jesus’ relationship with the Father is wonderful. It is perfect in every way. The Father loves the Son, and the Son loves the Father. They never disagree. They are always kind. They never behave rudely. They never seek their own. Their love never fails.

God calls us to be a part of His family. The way into God’s family is through Jesus Christ. Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers, for He says, “I will declare Your name to My brothers; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.’ And again: ‘I will put My trust in Him.’ And again: ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given Me’” (Hebrews 2:12-13).

In God’s family, there is love, there is joy, and there is eternal celebration. We know the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and they know us. Knowing God is eternal life. Knowing God is everlasting joy. Being a part of God’s family is truly wonderful!

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**1 John 4:19**

**We love because he first loved us.**

*Questions: Are you a member of God’s family? Do you think of God as your Father?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**

# The New Heavens and New Earth

Week of November 1-6, 2021

When we look around us today, we see a broken world. It is an amazing world. It is a beautiful world, but it is a broken world. The world broke when our first parents, Adam and Eve, decided to stop walking with God and go their own way. When Adam and Eve stepped away from the God who is Life, the world and all that is in it was plunged into death and darkness.

Right now, the trees, the grass, and all of creation is groaning as it waits for the day in which God will set the creation free from decay and destruction. The bodies that we have right now are amazing. We can do all kinds of wonderful things. We can shoot goals, catch balls, and run fast. But the bodies that we have right now aren't perfect. They get hurt. They get tired. They get old. God has promised that all of His children will someday have new bodies that never get old and never wear out. Imagine that!

Where will God's children live forever and ever? The Apostle Peter tells us that, "But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:11).

The new heavens and new earth will be full of God's righteousness. It will be a kingdom of light and truth. It will be a place where God's goodness is on full display. Every part of God's new creation will be fully alive in the life of God.

What will God's children do in the new heavens and earth? Revelation 22:3-5 says that God's children will 1) worship Him, 2) see His face, and 3) reign forever and ever with Him.

What does it mean to reign with God? To reign is to the job of a king. What are kings supposed to do? They are supposed to lead their people, take care of their kingdom, and see to it that everyone in their kingdom is strong, wise, healthy, and full of joy. God's children will reign with God and the Lamb forever and ever. We will be full of God. We will be delighted by the things that delight Him. We will do His will. We will be take care of the new creation under His guidance and in the power of His love and goodness.

There are so many wonderful things ahead for God's children! Are you one of God's children?

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## **2 Peter 3:13**

**But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

*Questions: What does it mean to reign with God? What will life be like in the new earth?*

**Please remember to pray for your team and their families!**