

# CHAMP SPORTS DEVOTIONAL



FALL 2019

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 19  
Uniform Distribution: Week of August 19  
Game Schedules: Week of August 26  
Opening Day: Saturday, September 7  
Picture Day: Saturday, October 12  
End-of-Season Celebration: Saturday, November 2  
Season Ends: Saturday, November 2

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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 service at 9:45AM in  
**Calvary's sanctuary**

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

# Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

*Week of August 19-23, 2019*

Welcome to CHAMP Sports! We are excited that you are here to play sports and learn about Jesus. There are many important things in life, but there is nothing more important than getting to know God. God made us. God loves us. God knows what is best for us. If you will learn to trust God, understand His thoughts, and live life according to His plan, you will be blessed and your life will be full of joy!

This season we will be learning about how God worked in the lives of many different people who lived a long time ago in what we call Old Testament times. The God who worked in their lives is the same God who works in our lives now. Times change, but God does not change. The Bible tells us that God is the same, “yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). This is exciting because it means that the same God who created the universe is right here with us in our Bible huddle right now!

The Bible begins with the story of Adam and Eve and their rebellion against God. When Adam and Eve stopped listening to God’s Word and God’s Spirit, their lives became a mess. Eventually, the world became so messy that God sent a flood and destroyed the whole world. God saved eight people through the flood: Noah, his wife, and Noah’s three sons and their wives.

After the flood, some people, like Abraham, walked with God by faith, but many people ignored God and did whatever was right in their own eyes.

Some of the people who were doing what was right in their own eyes lived in a great city called Jericho. God decided that He was going to take the city of Jericho away from these people and give the city to Abraham’s children. The problem was that the city of Jericho was a strong city with huge walls and the people of Jericho didn’t want to give their city to Abraham’s children.

What do you think? Were the people of Jericho able to stop God’s will? Of course not! God’s will is unstoppable. Do you know what God did to Jericho? He knocked down the walls of Jericho, and Abraham’s children easily took control of the city. Remember, God is stronger than we are. It is always best for us to be on God’s side!

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## **1 Corinthians 1:25**

**For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**

*Questions: Who is your favorite Bible character? What does it mean to walk with God?*

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

# David and Goliath

*Week of August 26-30, 2019*

David was one of the greatest men in the Bible. At certain times in David's life, he loved God with all of his heart.

What does it mean to love God with all of your heart? It means that you are fixated on God. It means that you want to spend all of your time with God. It means that you want to know everything that He thinks. It means that if He wasn't around you would be sadder than sad.

David, especially when he was young, loved God with all of his heart. In the morning, he would jump out of bed excited about spending the day with God. At night, he would fall asleep talking with God.

As David got older, Israel went to war with the Philistine people who lived next to the ocean on the west side of Israel. The Philistine army was big and strong, and the Israelites were afraid of them. There was one particular Philistine soldier who was bigger than all the rest. His name was Goliath, and he was huge.

Every day Goliath would stand before the Israelite army and challenge one of them to fight him, but no one wanted to fight Goliath. One day, David happened to be visiting his brothers at the battle and he heard Goliath's challenge. David wondered why no one would fight Goliath. Wasn't God on Israel's side? Wasn't Goliath picking a fight with God? David couldn't stand it, so he decided that *he* would fight Goliath.

David was just a boy when he decided to fight Goliath, but David wasn't afraid. David's trust was in God, and God was greater than ten billion Goliaths. When David went out to fight Goliath, the fight was fast. David shot a stone out of his slingshot and hit Goliath in the head. Then David quickly killed Goliath, the enemy of God.

When God's Son Jesus came to this earth, he was like David, and Satan was like Goliath. Satan is a monstrous enemy, but God is infinitely more powerful than Satan. When Jesus faced off with Satan in battle, Jesus crushed Satan's head by rising from the dead. Satan's greatest weapons against us are sin and death, but sin and death were no match for Jesus! Jesus has destroyed the power of sin and death!

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**Psalm 147:5**

**Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.**

*Questions: How did David learn to trust God so much? How can we learn to trust God each day?*

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

# King Saul

Week of September 3-7, 2019

Have you ever met a hothead? A hothead is someone who gets angry easily. It's hard to be friends with a hothead because you never know when they will get angry or what they will do when they are angry.

One of the hotheads in the Bible was King Saul. King Saul was a tall and handsome man, but he wasn't a wise or kind man.

One day Saul was upset, so David, the man who loved God, came to play music for Saul to calm him down. David was well known in Israel because he had done many great things for the people of Israel. While David was playing, Saul became angry, picked up a spear, and threw it at David in order to kill him. Saul missed, and David escaped from Saul's palace, but Saul wasn't done trying to kill David. Saul would go on to spend many years of his life trying to find and kill David.

Why did Saul hate David so much? David was a wise man and the people of Israel loved him. Saul knew that the people of Israel loved David more than they loved him. Saul was jealous of David. Therefore, Saul hated David and wanted to get rid of him.

Fast forward in history and we come to a very similar story to that of Saul and David. Jesus, God's Son, during His life on this earth, was a wise and kind man who did many great things for the people of this world. Many people loved Jesus. They called Him the Son of David. However, not everyone loved Jesus. There were people who hated Jesus just like Saul hated David. These people chased Jesus around Israel like Saul chased David. They set traps for Jesus like Saul set traps for David. They planned Jesus' death like Saul planned David's death.

Saul's story has a sad ending. Saul never changed his mind about trying to kill David and eventually Saul died in a battle. When Saul died, God made David Israel's new king.

King David and King Jesus have a lot in common! We can learn a lot about Jesus by studying David's life. Next week we will learn more about King David's life!

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## **Psalm 97:10**

**O you who love the Lord, hate evil!** He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

*Questions: Do you hate evil? When we aren't sure what is good or evil what should we do?  
[Answer: pray, read the Bible, ask God for wisdom!]*

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

# King David

Week of September 9-14, 2019

What makes a person a good king? A good king is someone who seeks God's direction in everything that he does. When God made Adam and Eve, He didn't say that Adam and Eve could do whatever they wanted. Instead, God said that Adam and Eve should do whatever *He* wanted. As soon as Adam and Eve did one thing that was right in their own eyes, they sinned, they fell from God's grace, and they died. A good king doesn't do what *he* thinks is right. A good king does what *God* thinks is right.

The Bible tells us that when David was a young man he "behaved wisely in all of his ways because the LORD was with him" (1 Samuel 18:14). David's wisdom came from the LORD.

When David was a shepherd boy, he learned to love spending time with God and hearing God's thoughts. David's mind was so full of God's thoughts that he didn't have room for his own thoughts. This is what made David so wise. When David got a bit older and became king of Israel, God taught David what to do as king and the whole nation of Israel was blessed. David was a little "k" king under the great King, God Himself.

King David was king over Israel for forty years. In the beginning, David talked with God a lot and David made some great decisions that helped Israel a lot. However, as David got older, he spent less and less time talking with God and he started to make bad decisions that hurt Israel a lot.

Overall, King David was a great king, but he wasn't a perfect king. King David's kingdom is a little picture of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, who is the one and only perfect King. Jesus has told us that He only does what God His Father says: "if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me" (John 8:16).

God the Father is perfect in all ways. Unlike King David, who sometimes did what he thought was right, Jesus always does what *God* thinks is right. This means that Jesus never makes any bad decisions. Do you want to live in the kingdom of the One who never makes a bad decision? If you do, there is only one perfect kingdom—the kingdom of God. Are you a member of God's kingdom?

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## **James 1:5**

**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all** without reproach, and it will be given him.

*Questions: Have you asked God to give you wisdom? Has God given wisdom to you?*

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

# King Solomon

*Week of September 16-21, 2019*

So far this season, we have learned about King Saul and King David. The third King in Israel was King Solomon. In ancient Israel, King David and King Solomon were Israel's greatest kings. King David established the kingdom of Israel, and King Solomon reigned over Israel in great splendor.

Did you know that names have meanings? In the Bible, it is helpful to see what a person's name means. Often what a person's name means will tell us something about the person. King Saul's name means "asked for." Saul was the king that the people "asked for" when they didn't have a human king. God wasn't too happy when the people asked for a human king because He was Israel's King. God knew that when the people of Israel started following a human king, it would be much harder for them to remember to follow Him.

King David's name means "beloved." God loved David because David's heart longed to know Him and follow Him. King David was one of Israel's best kings because he loved God with his whole heart. King Solomon's name means "peace." God gave great peace to the land of Israel when Solomon was king because Solomon ruled the land with God's wisdom.

Under Solomon's rule, the land of Israel was full of God's glory, which means that the nations of the earth could see what God is like by looking at Israel. Living in Israel during the early days of Solomon's kingdom would have been a wonderful experience. In Solomon's kingdom, God's wisdom flowed like rivers through the streets. Everyone had good things to eat and good things to do. Dads, moms, and children loved God and loved each other. God's temple was made of gold and was beautiful to look at. The world was at peace, and the great men and women of other lands came to hear the wisdom of Solomon so that they could go home and teach their people God's wisdom.

Solomon's kingdom didn't last forever, but there is a kingdom that does last forever—God's kingdom. Once God's plan for this world is finished, God will create a new heavens and new earth. In the new heavens and new earth, everything will be perfect and nothing will ever go wrong. God's eternal kingdom is for His children. To be one of God's children, you must be born of God's Spirit. Have you been born of God's Spirit?

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## **Psalm 24:10**

**Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

*Questions: Are you usually a happy person? How do we get God's peace to come into our hearts?*

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

# Elijah

*Week of September 23-28, 2019*

After Solomon's heart turned from following God's heart, the kingdom of Israel began to fall apart. Some of the people of Israel loved God and listened to Him, but most of the people in Israel ignored God and turned from His Spirit.

When God sees that people are ignoring Him, He sends prophets to remind people to walk with Him. To walk with God is life. To walk apart from God is death. God has had many prophets who have spoken throughout history to ask people to walk with Him so that they can be saved and live instead of remain lost and die. Noah was a prophet who spoke to the whole world to warn them of the great flood. Moses was a prophet who spoke to Egypt to warn them of God's great judgments. Elijah was a prophet who spoke to Israel to warn them of the bad things that would happen to them if they decided not to walk with God like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob walked with God.

Elijah's name means "my God is YHWH (*best known pronunciation: "Yahweh."*) "Yahweh" is God's proper name. Wow! What a name! Can you imagine meeting someone whose name is, "My God is Jesus." When you would introduce "My God is Jesus" to other people, you would say, "I want you to meet 'My God is Jesus.'"

Elijah's name was a very powerful name for a prophet. Wherever he went and whatever he said, people would know that "Elijah's God was Yahweh."

There is a great story about Elijah where he faced off with some false prophets who served a false god named Baal. Elijah and the false prophets had a contest to see whether Elijah's God was stronger or Baal was stronger. When the false prophets called on Baal to do something, nothing happened because Baal is nothing. When Elijah called on Yahweh, Yahweh sent fire from Heaven to earth in demonstration of His great and awesome power.

When Jesus came to this earth, He spoke to His Father, saying, "My God." Jesus is God's Son and therefore He is the greatest Prophet who ever lived. Jesus was sent to earth to warn us that someday everything in this world will be burned up, but if we will walk with Him in God's Spirit, we can be saved from God's awesome judgments and live. Is your trust in Jesus?

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**Exodus 15:3**

**The LORD is a warrior, the LORD is His name.**

*Questions: How do we walk with God? Are you walking with God?*

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



# Elisha

*Week of September 30 – October 5, 2019*

Last week we learned about the prophet Elijah. This week we are going to learn about the prophet Elisha. Elisha was Elijah's spiritual son. What does it mean to be someone's spiritual son? We share physical traits with our physical parents. Maybe our eyes look like our mother's eyes or our noses look like our father's nose. We share spiritual traits with our spiritual parents. Our spiritual traits are things in our hearts—like our faith.

God commanded all of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's children to have the same kind of faith as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God wanted Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's children to walk with Him in the same way that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob walked with Him. When we say that Elisha was Elijah's spiritual son, we mean that Elisha walked with God in the same way that Elijah walked with God.

Elisha learned how to walk with God from Elijah for about seven years. After these seven years, God declared that it was time for Elijah to leave the earth and join Him in heaven. When Elisha found out that Elijah was going to be with God in heaven, Elisha begged Elijah to have a double portion of Elijah's spirit. By this, Elisha meant that as Elijah's spiritual son, he wanted to inherit Elijah's ministry, and like a firstborn son under the Jewish law received a double portion of his father's estate, Elisha wanted a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

Elijah told Elisha that what Elisha asked was a hard thing but that if Elisha could see Elijah's spirit as he ascended to heaven, then Elisha would have what he asked. When God took Elijah up to heaven, Elisha saw Elijah ascending, and a double portion of Elijah's spirit was granted to Elisha.

How do we know that Elisha got a double portion of Elijah's spirit? Both Elijah and Elisha did many miracles. In fact, both Elijah and Elisha raised a young child from the dead. Elijah did eight miracles. Do you want to guess how many miracles Elisha did? He did sixteen—exactly twice the number that Elijah did!

Elisha's name means, "My God is salvation." As a prophet, Elisha taught Israel to trust God as their salvation. Next week we will talk about how you can trust God for salvation!

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**Romans 8:14**

**For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**

*Questions: What great things is God calling you to do? Do you know God's Holy Spirit?*

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

# Isaiah (Invitation Week)

Week of October 7-12, 2019

Last week we learned about Elisha, whose name means, “My God is salvation.” This week we are talking about Isaiah. Isaiah’s name means, “YHWH (Yahweh) is salvation.” Yahweh is the name of the God of the Bible. Yahweh God sent the prophet Isaiah to the nation of Israel to tell them about how He would save them. The book of Isaiah is 66 chapters long, which makes it one of the longest books in the Bible. God has a lot to say about salvation!

When Isaiah was alive, the nation of Israel desperately needed God to save them. They had gone their own way, and their nation was a mess. Unlike like the glorious days of Solomon’s kingdom, the kingdom of Israel in the days of Isaiah was full of sorrow.

Sin means doing what we want to do. Sin means ignoring God and living life in whatever way we think is best. Sin means resisting God’s Holy Spirit and walking in Satan’s lie that we can be God. Isaiah told Israel about a Savior who would be born to Israel, who would walk with God in truth and destroy Satan’s kingdom. This Savior would be Israel’s true King. Every Israelite who would accept Jesus as their King would be saved from eternal death and be given eternal life.

Jesus was a Jew. As a Jew, Jesus was sent to save the children of Israel from their sins, but in the book of Isaiah, God declared that Jesus would do more than just save Israel: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6). This means that not only does Jesus save the preserved of Israel but that He saves each one of us who will give our lives to Him! Do you want to turn your life over to Jesus right now?!

If you want to receive Jesus as your Savior and King, you can pray this prayer with me today. Everyone please close your eyes and bow your heads. **“Father, I know that I have sinned by going my own way and doing my own thing. I am truly sorry. I now want to turn my life over to you. Please forgive me and give me the nature of Christ Jesus. Please cause me to pass from death into life. I believe that your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite you, Jesus, to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey you and do your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.”**

If you said this prayer and have surrendered your life to God, you are now a child of God! You have been born again in Jesus Christ and you shall live forever with Him! This is fantastic news! Thank you, Jesus!

*Coaches, be sure to complete a Decision Card for each one of your players. Please turn them in at the box in the equipment shed. Thank you for your help!*

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**1 Timothy 1:15**

**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.**

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

# Jeremiah

*Week of October 14-19, 2019*

Do you know how this world will end? It will end with a great fire from Heaven. This great fire will swallow the whole world and cause everything in this world to melt and burn up. After this world is destroyed by fire, God will create a new heavens and earth wherein everything will be perfect forever. It is in this new heavens and earth that God's children will live forever with Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

Noah's flood was a little picture of the great day of the LORD. The day that God destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C., over 2,500 years ago, was also a little picture of the fiery end of this world. Before God destroys something, He sends many prophets to warn people. Noah was a prophet. Jesus was a prophet. Elijah and Elisha were prophets, and Isaiah was a prophet.

Today, we are going to learn about Jeremiah, who was one of the prophets that God sent to warn the Israelites in Judah before God destroyed Jerusalem.

Jeremiah's name means "YHWH (Yahweh) will raise." Jeremiah's name was a promise from God that after He destroyed Jerusalem He would raise Jerusalem again.

Jerusalem was God's great city on the earth. God meant for Jerusalem to be full of people who loved Him and walked with Him. Jerusalem was a great city under King David and King Solomon, but about four hundred years after Solomon built God's house in the city of Jerusalem, the people of Jerusalem had become so wicked that God declared that the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed.

God sent Jeremiah to warn the people of Israel to turn back and follow Him instead of following false gods. Some of the people listened to Jeremiah's words and obeyed God, but not many.

Why do so many people ignore God? The cost of following God is high. First, to follow God, we can't follow ourselves and our own desires anymore. That is a high price for people who like doing their own thing. Second, God's children are often laughed at and treated badly in this world. The Scriptures say of Moses that, "he chose to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:25). Following Jesus in this life isn't always easy, but it is joyful, and it comes with promises of great and beautiful things!

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**1 Corinthians 6:14**

**By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also.**

*Questions: What are some of the good things that God has given to you?*

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

# Ezekiel

Week of October 21-26, 2019

Ezekiel was a prophet who spoke to the nation of Israel during the same days that Jeremiah was speaking to Israel. While Jeremiah spoke to the Israelites in Jerusalem Ezekiel was speaking to the Israelites who had been taken from the land of Israel to the land of Babylon.

Babylon was one of the greatest nations that has ever existed. The Babylonians were a strong and proud people. Their king built the *Hanging Gardens of Babylon*, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. God used this great nation, the nation of Babylon, to judge Jerusalem for their wickedness.

When the Babylonians came to destroy Jerusalem, many of the Israelites died, but many did not. Most of the Israelites who did not die were carried away by the Babylonians to be captives in Babylon. Ezekiel was one of the Israelites whom God sent to Babylon. Ezekiel's job was to tell the nation of Israel about the good things that God would do for them in the future.

God, because of His great love for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has promised that He will never destroy all of their children. God has kept this promise throughout history, and He continues to keep this promise to this day.

Ezekiel's name means "God will strengthen." This was the message that Israel needed to hear when she was captive in Babylon. The time that Israel spent in Babylon was one of the saddest times in their history. Jerusalem, God's city, had been destroyed, the temple that Solomon had built had been destroyed, and Israel was not allowed to live in the land that God had given to their fathers.

However, there was hope. God would strengthen Israel. The prophet Daniel understood from the Scriptures that Israel would be in Babylon for seventy years, but then God would return them to the land that He had given to their fathers.

Today, we live in a world that is not our home. God's children long for the day that Jesus will come and take God's children away from this world and give us entrance into our eternal home. We don't know exactly when Jesus will appear and this age will end—that's why we must always be ready, for He will come and many people won't be ready for His coming!

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## **Romans 15:13**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing...**

Questions: How strong is God? [Answer: He can do anything He wants to do.] Is God strengthening you?

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

# Daniel

*Week of October 28-November 2, 2019*

The prophet Daniel was in Babylon at the same time as Ezekiel. While Ezekiel lived among the Israelites, Daniel lived in the courts of the king of Babylon.

Daniel served the king of Babylon. One day the king of Babylon had a dream of a great statue that had a head of gold, its chest and arms were of silver, its middle and thighs were of bronze, its legs were of iron, and its feet were of iron and clay. Then the king of Babylon watched as a great stone struck the feet of the statue and the whole statue was broken and turned to dust and disappeared.

The king of Babylon did not know what this dream meant, but Daniel received an understanding of the dream from God. The meaning of the dream was that there would be four kingdoms, Babylon being the first kingdom, the head of gold. These four kingdoms would each be great, but then another kingdom—the stone—would come and strike these four kingdoms and these four great kingdoms would be destroyed and disappear.

Do you know the name of the kingdom that will destroy all of the kingdoms of this earth? The kingdom of God led by Jesus Christ is the stone that destroys all of the kingdoms of this world!

When will the stone appear to destroy all of the kingdoms of this world? We don't know, for we do not know the day or hour that Jesus will return to earth, but we do know that when Jesus comes back to this earth, He will set up God's kingdom.

Daniel's name means "God is my judge." In God's eternal kingdom, God will be the judge of everything. In God's kingdom, whatever God thinks is good is good and whatever God thinks is bad is bad. In God's kingdom, we will do what God wants forever, and we will have the best time ever!

What God really wants from each one of us is that we stop trying to be God over our lives and let Him be God. God wants us to be His children. He wants to teach us and lead us through life by His Spirit. God is good! God is love! The best thing that you can ever do is give your life to God. If you will give your life to God, God will give His life to you! Imagine that!

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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: What is God's kingdom like? Do you have peace and joy in the Holy Spirit?*

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