

CHAMP SPORTS DEVOTIONAL



SPRING 2019

CHAMP Office – 704.341.5387
Weather Hotline – 704.341.5473

www.champsportsinfo.com

Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

Season Schedule

Practices Begin: Week of February 25
Uniform Distribution: Week of February 25
Game Schedules: Week of March 4
Opening Day: Saturday, March 9
Picture Day: Saturday, April 6
Spring Break: April 15 – April 20 (No practices or games)
Practices Resume: April 23
End-of-Season Celebration: May 18
Season Ends: Saturday, May 18

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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 February 25-March 1, 2019

Welcome to CHAMP Sports! This is a place where we have fun, make friends, play sports, and learn about God. As we spend devotional time together each week, do your best to listen carefully. Think hard about what you are hearing. Ask great questions! Thinking hard and asking great questions will help you grow smarter and gain wisdom. Wisdom is something that will help you every day of your life!

This season we are going to look at some of the greatest people in the Bible. Do you know what makes a person great in God's eyes? Faith. God thinks that faith is more precious than gold or silver. There is nothing that God wants more for you than for you to place 100% of your faith in Him. God is looking for people who always want to do what He wants them to do.

Do you remember the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? What was the big problem there? God told Adam to *not* do one thing. The one thing that God told Adam he could *not* do was be like God. There is only one God in the universe. That one God is the God who wrote the Bible. What does it mean to be God? To be God is to decide what is right and what is wrong. There can't be a lot of Gods in the universe. Why? Just think about it. If I tell you one thing is good and you tell me that the same thing is bad, who is right? We can't both be right or there is no such thing as right. That's why there can only be one God. The one God decides what is right and what is wrong. When we want to know what is right and wrong, God wants us to ask Him. If everyone in the whole world would ask God what is right and wrong every day, the whole world would work perfectly. In fact, in God's future kingdom, that is exactly how the world will work.

Adam and Eve made one HUMONGOUS mistake in the Garden of Eden. They decided to do what they thought was good instead of always doing what God thought was good. Always doing what God thinks is good is called *walking by faith*. The good news in the Bible is that God has sent His Son Jesus to help us to always do what God thinks is good. This is called *grace*. Grace is Jesus walking with us and living in us every day so that we can know what God thinks is good and do it.

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at some of the people in the Bible who walked with God by faith. Their faith made God very happy. Do you want to walk with God by faith?

Isaiah 45:5

I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God.

Questions: How can we know what God thinks is right and wrong? Answer: Bible study, prayer.

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Abel

Week of March 4-9, 2019

“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks” (Hebrews 11:4).

The first two children ever born into this world were Cain and Abel. Cain was older. Abel was younger. Can you imagine what it was like when there were only four people in the world? Do you think you would be lonely if you lived in a world with only three other people? Maybe so, but Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel didn't live in a world with only three other people. Why not? Because God is Person and God is everywhere.

Every day, when Cain and Abel woke up, God was there with them. Cain and Abel probably couldn't see God with their physical eyes, just like we can't see God right now with our physical eyes, but God was right there with them. Every day, Cain and Abel must have wondered what would happen next. God had made a promise to Adam and Eve after they sinned that He would give a Child who would fix what Adam and Eve had messed up. Was the child Cain? Was the child Abel?

As Cain and Abel grew up, they decided to give God some of what they had. Cain was a gardener. Cain brought to God some of the plants that he had grown. Abel was a shepherd. Abel brought to God the best sheep that he had.

When God saw what Cain and Abel had brought to Him, God was not happy with Cain, but He was happy with Abel. Why? The writer of Hebrews tells us that Abel's offering was more acceptable than Cain's sacrifice. Why was Abel's gift to God better? We know from the Bible that Abel brought “the very best” that he had. Cain just brought some of what he had.

God has given us many great things. He has given us time, energy, and life. God wants us to give our time, energy, and life to Him. This is what living by faith is all about. Living by faith is spending our time with God so that each day we live life *with* God, not apart from God. God is always available to share His life with us. Are you always available to share your life with God?

Matthew 3:17

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

*Questions: Who is God's beloved Son? Answer: Jesus. Why was God so pleased with Jesus?
[Answer: Jesus always does what pleases the Father (John 8:29).] Does Jesus live inside of you?*

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Enoch

Week of March 11-16, 2019

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5).

Have you heard of the man named Enoch? The Bible doesn't say much about Enoch, but what the Bible does say about Enoch is very powerful! Enoch is a great example of a person who spent his life spending time with God.

Do you know how the old the oldest person who ever lived was? Today, the longest people ever live is about 120 years old. In the Bible, we read that the first man, Adam, lived to be 930 years old! The longest any one has ever lived according to the Bible is 969 years. The man's name was Methuselah. Methuselah was the son of Enoch.

Enoch was 65 years old when Methuselah was born. After Methuselah was born, Enoch lived for another 300 years, and then something incredible happened. When Enoch was 365 years old, the Bible says that God "took Enoch" from the earth. What does this mean? It means that Enoch never died. God simply took Enoch from living here on earth and moved Enoch to living with God in heaven! This is one of the most amazing stories in the Bible!

Why do you think God took Enoch from the earth to live with Him in Heaven? The Bible says that the reason is that God was pleased with Enoch. Why was God pleased with Enoch? Because Enoch walked with God by faith. How did Enoch walk with God by faith? Enoch spent all day every day sharing everything he thought, said, did, and felt with God. God knew Enoch and Enoch knew God. God wants us to know Him like Enoch knew Him. God wants to know us like He knew Enoch.

How many days are there in a year? 365. How many years did Enoch live? 365 years. Maybe God wants us to learn a lesson from Enoch's life. Maybe God wants us to know that He wants to spend 365 days a year sharing life with us. Sharing life with God in this world is just the beginning. How long will God's children live with God? That's right, forever! Do you want to spend forever sharing life with God?

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Questions: What are some of the things that you want to do? Do you think these desires are from God? What kinds of things make God happy? Do you like the things that make God happy?

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Noah

Week of March 18-23, 2019

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith" (Hebrews 11:7).

Noah was a man of great faith just like his great-grandfather Enoch. Noah lived in a world where most people did whatever they wanted to do whenever they wanted to do it. Everyone was going in their own way according to their own thoughts. They had forgotten about God. They lived their lives as if God didn't exist. But, not Noah. Noah was a man of faith. Noah listened to God and Noah trusted God.

One day, God told Noah that He was planning to send a great flood upon the earth. This flood would kill everyone who didn't want to walk with God. God wasn't planning for Noah to die in this flood, so God told Noah to build a great ark (which is a large boat). Anyone who was in the ark when the flood came would live, but everyone who wasn't in the ark when the flood came would die. Because Noah was a man of faith, Noah built the ark.

Most people must have thought that Noah was silly to build the ark. There had never been a great flood before! What was Noah doing?! But Noah didn't care about what other people thought; he only cared about what God thought. Only caring about what God thinks is a wise thing to do. Are you a wise person?

As Noah was building the ark, he warned everyone around him that God had promised to send a great flood. Noah invited everyone he met to join him in the ark before the great flood came. After he built the ark, God sent the flood. Do you know how many people were in the ark when the flood came? Eight. Only eight people lived through the flood. Everyone else died. The eight people who lived through the flood were Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives. That was all. Nobody else believed Noah. No one else believed God. They weren't of faith.

Someday soon, Jesus is coming back to earth. Jesus says that when He comes back to earth, it will be like the days of Noah. People will be eating and drinking and ignoring God and then Jesus will come. Will you be ready when Jesus comes? Would you have gotten on the ark with Noah?

Matthew 24:44

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Questions: Who is the Son of Man? [Answer: Jesus] Are you ready to see Jesus?

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Abraham

Week of March 25-30, 2019

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance” (Hebrews 11:8).

After Noah’s flood, Noah’s children had sons and daughters, and soon the world was full of people again. One of these people was a man named Abram. God had a special plan for Abram. Abram lived in a city where the people didn’t know God or care about God. God called Abram to pack up all of his things and set out on a journey to a place that God would show him. Do you think Abram obeyed God? He did! Abram’s obedience to God’s command is what we call *faith*.

When God called Abram to leave his home and move to a new land, Abram didn’t tell God he would think about it; Abram simply obeyed God. God is looking for people like Abram to be His children.

The new land that God had for Abram to live in was the land of Israel. When Abram got to the land of Israel, he set up his tent and began to live his new life in God’s land, but God’s plan for Abram was not done yet. God wanted Abram to become the father of many people. The problem was that Abram didn’t have any children! Abram was old, and his wife was old. It wasn’t possible for them to have children anymore, but God promised that Abram would have a son. In fact, God changed Abram’s name to Abraham (which means “father of many people”) before Abraham had even had one child. Even though it was impossible for Abraham to have children, Abraham believed God, and God was pleased.

After God promised a son and Abraham believed God, a boy named Isaac was born to Abraham. Isaac had a son too and named him Jacob. Both Isaac and Jacob had the same kind of faith as Abraham, their father. Isaac and Jacob were just the beginning. Today, we can look back and see that God’s promise to Abraham came true. Abraham is the father of many nations!

All of the good things that God did for Abraham started when Abraham decided that he would follow God by faith. Do you have faith like Abraham? If God said, “Go,” would you go?

Romans 4:3

Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

Questions: Do you believe God? Why is it hard to believe God sometimes? Some reasons: [1. We think we can figure out life for ourselves, 2) We can’t see God with our physical eyes, 3] We have sinful hearts and we are scared of God.] Does God love us? Yes, He does! Will He forgive us? Yes!

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Joseph

Week of April 1-6, 2019

“By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones” (Hebrews 11:22).

Abraham’s son was Isaac. Isaac’s son was Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons. One of Jacob’s twelve sons was Joseph. Joseph was younger than most of his brothers. God had a special plan for Joseph. Joseph was going to be the savior of his brothers.

When Joseph was young, he had some interesting dreams. One night Joseph dreamed that the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to him. Joseph told this dream to his brothers. His brothers understood that in Joseph’s dream, they were the eleven stars that bowed down to him. Joseph’s brothers weren’t happy about the idea of bowing down to Joseph, so they decided to sell him into slavery.

After Joseph was sold into slavery, he ended up in Egypt. In the land of Egypt, Joseph learned to walk with God just like his great grandfather Abraham had walked with God. God blessed Joseph. Even though Joseph was a slave in Egypt, God made him great. Joseph worked hard as a slave and did well, but then something terrible happened to him. Just like Joseph’s brothers had hated him, Joseph’s master’s wife began to hate Joseph, and she got him thrown into prison.

While in prison, Joseph helped people. Soon, the man who was in charge of the prison asked Joseph to help him run the prison. One day, the king of Egypt heard of Joseph and asked to speak with him. When the king heard the great wisdom that God had given to Joseph, the king put Joseph in charge of running his whole kingdom. Only the king was greater than Joseph.

At this point, Joseph’s brothers ran out of food back in Israel, so they came down to Egypt to buy food. Guess what happened when Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt? They came to Joseph and they bowed down before him, but they didn’t know they were bowing to Joseph! The dream that God had given to Joseph had come true!

Because Joseph walked with God by faith, God made Joseph great in Egypt. However, Joseph wasn’t interested in staying in Egypt because God had promised that one day the children of Israel would go back to the land of Israel. Joseph believed God’s promises. Do you?

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

Questions: What hard things happened to Joseph in his life? Do you think it was hard for Joseph to learn how to trust God when he was in prison? Did God have a good plan for Joseph’s life? [Answer: Yes, God used Joseph to save many people’s lives and help them know God better.]

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Moses (Invitation Week)

Week of April 8-13, 2019

“By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin” (Hebrews 11:24-25).

After God made Joseph great in Egypt, a new king became king in Egypt. This king didn't care about Joseph or the children of Israel. This king decided to make the children of Israel his slaves. A slave is someone who doesn't get to do what they want to do. A slave has to do what the master says.

God made humans to be slaves. We will either be slaves of sin or will be slaves of God. We will either listen to Satan or we will listen to God. We will either do what *we* want or what *God* wants. We can't do what sin wants *and* what God wants at the same time. It is impossible!

When Abraham's children went down to Egypt, they became slaves in Egypt. While they were slaves, a man named Moses was born. This man was going to save Israel from slavery in Egypt!

Moses was born as an Israelite, but he was not raised by his mother. Moses was raised by the king of Egypt's daughter. Moses could have simply enjoyed his life in Egypt. He would have had plenty to eat and a great house to live in. Life would have been fun and easy, but Moses walked with God by faith. Moses knew that the children of Israel were God's people and that God was going to destroy Egypt and set the children of Israel free.

Do you know who is like Moses? Jesus, God's Son, is like Moses. Just like God called Moses to set the children of Israel free, God called Jesus to set all of us free. Jesus set us free by living a perfect life, dying on a cross, and then being raised from the dead! How did what Jesus did set us free? We have all disobeyed God. This is called sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sin. When God raised Jesus from the dead, God offered the life of Jesus to us. Jesus' life is eternal. If we will repent of going our own way and accept Jesus as our forever King, then God will forgive us for sinning against Him and accept us as His forever children. Do you want to get rid of your old life where you are king and accept Jesus as your King today?

If you want to receive Jesus as your King and the Father as your God, you can pray this prayer with me today. Everyone please close your eyes and bow your heads. **“Father, I know that I have sinned and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my sin. 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 to 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!

1 John 2:17

The world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Joshua

Week of April 22-27, 2019

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days” (Hebrews 11:30).

Joshua’s name means “salvation.” What a great name to have! Do you know who else’s name means salvation? Jesus’ name means “salvation.” Joshua and Jesus have some things in common. God sent Joshua to lead the children of Israel into a good land flowing with milk and honey. God sent Jesus to lead His children into the new heavens and new earth.

What was Joshua like? Joshua was a man who believed God. Early in his life, God sent Joshua and eleven other men to see the good land that God was giving to the children of Israel. While in the land, the twelve men saw giants living there. When the twelve men came back from their mission, ten of the men were scared of the giants, but Joshua and his friend Caleb were not scared of the giants. They trusted God. God had told the children of Israel that He was giving the land of Israel to them. Joshua and Caleb trusted that God would take care of the giants. Joshua and Caleb feared the LORD, not the giants.

God told Joshua, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:6-8). Joshua did what God asked him to do!

That is what faith is—faith is doing what God asks us to do with the power that God gives us to do it. When God asked Joshua to lead the children of Israel into the good land that God was giving to them, do you know what Joshua did? Joshua led God’s people into the land! One of the first cities that Joshua and God’s people came to was the city of Jericho. It was a strong city, but not stronger than God! Because Joshua obeyed God, God made the walls of the city of Jericho fall down. It was a great miracle! We learn more about this miracle next week, so stay tuned!

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Questions: How strong is God? Have you ever prayed and asked God to be your strength?

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Rahab

Week of April 29 – May 4, 2019

“By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies” (Hebrews 11:31).

Last week, we talked about a man named Joshua. Joshua was the man that God picked to lead His children into the Promised Land. The Promised Land is the land that God promised to give to Abraham and Abraham’s children. It was a good land. It was a land that produced lots of healthy milk and honey, but it was a land that was full of giant people who didn’t want to leave. So, before God could give the land of Israel to His people, God had to move the giant people out of the land. Part of Joshua’s job was to fight against the giant people and push them out of the Promised Land.

The giant people had built big cities in the Promised Land. These cities were surrounded by big, strong walls. In one of these cities, the city of Jericho, lived a woman named Rahab. Rahab wasn’t an Israelite, but she had heard about the God of Israel. She had heard how God had done great things for Israel. She had heard how God had set the Israelites free from Pharaoh in Egypt. She had heard how God had defeated Israel’s enemies. Rahab knew that the God of Israel was greater than all other gods.

As Joshua was preparing to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land, he sent to spies into the land and they came to the city of Jericho. The men of Jericho realized that two Israelites had come into their city, and they weren’t happy. As the men of Jericho looked for the two Israelites, Rahab hid the two spies on the roof of her house. Why did Rahab hide the spies? Because she knew that God had given the land where Jericho was to Israel and she trusted God. Rahab’s faith was in the God of Israel.

When the two Israelites left Rahab’s house, they promised her that because she had been friendly to them, that when God came and destroyed Jericho, she and everyone in her house would be safe.

Rahab’s story is kind of like the story of Noah. God saved Noah and his family because they went into the ark. God saved Rahab and her family because they stayed in Rahab’s house. Do you know how God saves us? God saves us if we are in Jesus. How do we get inside of Jesus? We believe in Him. When we believe in Jesus, it is like running into Noah’s ark or Rahab’s house. Someday, God will destroy this world and everyone who isn’t in Jesus will be destroyed. But, the good news is that we don’t have to be destroyed because we can believe in Jesus and be saved!

1 Timothy 2:4

God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Questions: Does God want you to be saved? [Answer: Yes.] Are you saved?

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Gideon

Week of May 6-11, 2019

After God gave the Promised Land to Joshua and the children of Israel, the children of Israel had to learn to live as God's people. Their lives in the land of Israel were very different than their lives in Egypt. In Egypt, Pharaoh told them what to do. In the land of Israel, *God* told them what to do.

How did God speak to the children of Israel? First, God spoke to them through the prophet Moses. Then God spoke to the children of Israel through Joshua. As long as Joshua was alive, the children of Israel served the LORD, but when Joshua died, the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served other gods.

God was not happy with the children of Israel when they served other gods. Just imagine that you had a dog that wouldn't ever listen to you or do what you said! Wouldn't that be frustrating?! So, what did God do? God allowed Israel's enemies to come and take their things and become their masters. It was like being slaves back in Egypt again!

It was at a time when the children of Israel were slaves to their enemies that God raised up a man named Gideon to set His people free. On the day that the LORD asked Gideon to go and set the children of Israel free, Gideon told the LORD, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan [people] is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house" (Judges 6:15). Do you know what the LORD said to Gideon? The LORD said, "But I will be with you" (Judges 6:16).

Do you ever feel small and powerless? That's how Gideon felt when God asked him to lead the people of Israel to victory over their enemies. What was God's answer to Gideon's smallness? God's answer to Gideon's smallness was God's bigness. God doesn't care how small we are; in fact, He wants us to be weak so that He can show us how strong He is.

Because he trusted God, Gideon got ready to fight. Gideon built an army of 32,000 men, but God said that the army was too big. God wanted to show His strength, not Israel's strength. So what did God do? God sent 31,700 soldiers home so that there were only 300 soldiers left. Then, according to God's direction, Gideon and 300 soldiers defeated 135,000 enemy soldiers! If you would like to read exactly how God did this, you can find Gideon's story in the Bible in Judges, chapters 6-8.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Questions: Do you have God's power and love in your heart? Have you given God control over your life?

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Samuel

Week of May 13-18, 2019

This has been a great season at CHAMP Sports! Thank you for being here and for playing so hard! Thank you for being respectful and for listening during devotions! Today, we are going to talk about a boy who listened carefully to God.

Samuel's name means "God heard." Samuel was a special child. Samuel's mother had a hard time having a baby, which made her sad. Hannah cried and prayed to God and asked Him to give her a child. Hannah promised God that if He would give her a child, she would give the child back to God. God heard her and answered her prayer and Samuel was born. When Samuel about 11 years old, Hannah brought Samuel to Eli, the priest of God, so that Samuel could serve God, just as Hannah had promised.

One day, as Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, the LORD said to Samuel, "Here I am!" Samuel, thinking that Eli was calling him, ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." However, Eli had not called Samuel and Eli said, "I did not call; lie down again." Again the LORD called to Samuel, and again Samuel ran to Eli, but again Eli sent Samuel back to lie down, because Eli had not called him. A third time the LORD called to Samuel, and this time, when Samuel went to Eli, Eli said, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'"

Do you remember that the LORD heard Hannah, Samuel's mom, and answered her prayer? Well, now the LORD was the one calling and Samuel was the one hearing. When Samuel realized it was the LORD who was calling him, Samuel listened to the LORD, and Samuel brought the message of the LORD to Eli. When Eli heard the LORD's message from Samuel, Eli said, "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him.

This story tells us about the first time that the LORD spoke to Samuel, but this wasn't the last time that the LORD spoke to Samuel. All that the LORD said to Samuel came true! Today, God may not be speaking to you like He did to Samuel, but God is speaking to us, if we have ears to hear, through the Bible, through His Spirit, and through those who teach His Word and preach His gospel. Are you listening to what God has to say to you? Will you listen to God and obey Him like Samuel did? If you will live your life by faith, you will please God!

John 8:47

Whoever is of God hears the words of God.

Questions: Do you hear God's words? Are God's words making your heart strong?

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