



Week 4: Perseverance, Playing Through Challenges

- **Theme:** Keep Going, Even When It's Hard!
- **Primary Scripture:** Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- **Additional Scripture:** James 1:12 and 2 Timothy 4:7
- **Key Words:** Perseverance, Endurance, Focus
- **Connection to Sports:** Athletes know that success often comes through hard work, discipline, and determination, even when the odds are against them. Whether it's a grueling practice or a tough opponent, the key is to persevere. Similarly, in life, we will face challenges and hardships that test our faith. But as followers of Christ, we are called to keep our eyes on Him and continue running the race He has set for us.

Practical Application for Sports and Life:

- **In Sports:** Push through tough practices or challenging games by focusing on the ultimate goal. Encourage your teammates and remind yourself that perseverance builds strength and character.
- **In Life:** When life gets hard, rely on prayer and Scripture for strength. Surround yourself with supportive believers who will encourage you to keep your faith strong and focused on Christ.

Challenge for the Athlete:

This week, when something feels hard—like a tough practice, schoolwork, or a problem with a friend—don't give up. Instead, take a moment to pray and ask God for strength. Encourage a teammate or friend who's struggling too. Remember, with God's help, you can keep going and finish strong!

DEVOTIONS FOR 2025 BASKETBALL SEASON



Devotional Script for Coaches: Week 4

“Great practice today! Let’s talk about something important...perseverance.

In sports, success often comes through hard work, discipline, and determination. Whether it’s a tough practice or a challenging game, the key is to keep going and push through.

Hebrews 12:1 says, *'Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.'* Just like athletes face challenges on the field, we face difficulties in life that test our faith.

James 1:12 says, *'Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial.'* Challenges help us grow stronger, not just physically but spiritually. And in *2 Timothy 4:7*, Paul says, *'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.'* We are called to keep our eyes on Jesus and stay focused on the goal, even when things get hard.

Perseverance isn’t just about working harder—it’s about trusting God to give us the strength we need to keep going. When life feels overwhelming, remember that God is always with you, helping you run your race.

Practical Challenge:

This week, encourage your players to push through tough practices or games by focusing on the ultimate goal. Remind them that perseverance builds strength and character. Off the court, challenge them to rely on prayer and Scripture when life gets hard. Encourage them to lift-up teammates or friends who may be struggling.

Self-Reflection Questions:

1. When things get tough, do you keep going, or do you feel like giving up?
2. How can trusting God help you face challenges in sports and life?
3. Who can you encourage this week to keep going and finish strong?

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for giving us the strength to persevere through challenges. Help us keep our eyes on You and run the race with endurance. Teach us to trust You in every situation and encourage others to do the same. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*