



Week 5: Good Sportsmanship – Loving Others

- **Theme:** Treat others with respect and love.
- **Primary Scripture:** *Luke 6:31-And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.*
- **Additional Scripture:** Ephesians 4:32 and Philippians 2:3-4
- **Key Words:** Loving Others, Respect, Kindness
- **Connection to Sports:** Good sportsmanship reflects the heart of Christ. Whether you win or lose, showing kindness and fairness to teammates, coaches, and opponents honors God. Just as Jesus demonstrated love and respect to everyone, we are called to do the same, on and off the field. Good sportsmanship shows that our actions are guided by a heart that seeks to love others as Christ loves us.

Practical Application for Sports and Life:

- **In Sports:** Shake hands with your opponents after a game, win or lose, and encourage teammates with kind words during tough moments. Show respect to coaches and referees, even when calls don't go your way.
- **In Life:** Treat everyone with kindness and respect, even when it's challenging. Look for opportunities to serve others and reflect Christ's love in your words and actions.

Challenge for the Athlete:

This week, practice good sportsmanship by saying "good game" to your opponents, win or lose. Encourage a teammate who's having a tough time and show respect to your coach and referees. At home or school, look for one way to be kind, like helping someone or saying something encouraging. Show others the love of Jesus through your actions!

DEVOTIONS FOR 2025 BASKETBALL SEASON



Devotional Script for Coaches: Week 5

“Great job today! Let’s take a moment to talk about something that matters both on and off the field—good sportsmanship.

In sports, good sportsmanship means showing kindness and respect to everyone—teammates, coaches, referees, and even opponents. *Luke 6:31* says, ‘*And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.*’ Whether we win or lose, treating others with love and fairness reflects the heart of Christ.

Ephesians 4:32 reminds us, ‘*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*’ Just as Jesus showed love and respect to everyone He met, we are called to do the same. *Philippians 2:3-4* adds, ‘*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*’ This attitude shows Christ’s love to others in a powerful way.

Good sportsmanship is more than following the rules—it’s about having a heart that honors God by respecting others. Whether it’s encouraging a teammate, shaking hands with opponents, or respecting a referee’s decision, your actions can shine a light for Jesus.

Practical Challenge:

This week, encourage your players to practice good sportsmanship by showing kindness and respect. On the field, they can say “good game” to their opponents and encourage teammates with kind words. Off the field, challenge them to look for ways to serve others or share encouraging words with someone who needs it.

Self-Reflection Questions:

1. Do I treat others with kindness and respect, even when things don’t go my way?
2. How can I show love to my teammates, opponents, and coaches this week?
3. What is one way I can reflect Christ’s love through my actions?

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for showing us how to love others. Help us to be kind, respectful, and forgiving in all we do. Teach us to honor You with our actions and reflect Your love on and off the field. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*