# **DEVOTIONS FOR 2025 BASKETBALL SEASON**



## Week 7: Sharing the Good News – Being a Light

- Theme: Tell Others About Jesus
- **Primary Scripture:** Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- Additional Scripture: Mark 16:15 and 1 Peter 3:15
- Key Words: Light, Teammates, Encouragement
- **Connection to Sports:** In sports, players encourage and support one another, building team spirit and camaraderie. Similarly, as followers of Christ, we are called to share the hope and love of Jesus with others. When we live in a way that reflects God's love, we shine His light in the world, drawing others closer to Him.

## Practical Application for Sports and Life:

- **In Sports** be an example of encouragement, kindness, and teamwork, showing others what it means to live for Jesus.
- In life: look for opportunities to share your testimony or offer hope to someone who is struggling, always pointing back to Christ.

Encourage players to see themselves as ambassadors for Jesus, living and speaking in a way that inspires others to seek Him. Remind them that their actions, attitudes, and words can make a lasting impact, both on and off the field.

## Challenge for the Athlete:

This week, shine your light by being kind and encouraging to everyone around you. On the field, cheer for your teammates and show respect to your opponents. At school or home, look for one person who needs a kind word or help, and tell them about the love of Jesus. Let your actions and words show others how amazing God is!

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### Devotional Script for Coaches: Week 7

"Great job today! Let's talk about something important—being a light for Jesus.

In sports, players encourage and support one another, building team spirit. As followers of Christ, we are called to do the same by sharing the hope and love of Jesus with others. Matthew 5:16 says, 'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'

Being a light means living in a way that reflects God's love. When we show kindness, encouragement, and teamwork, we point others to Jesus. *Mark 16:15* reminds us to, 'Go *into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation*.' Whether on the field or in life, our actions and words can make a lasting impact.

1 Peter 3:15 says, 'Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.' This means being ready to share your faith, whether by telling someone about Jesus or showing His love through your actions.

#### Practical Challenge:

Encourage your players to shine their light this week by being kind and supportive to their teammates. On the field, they can cheer for others and show respect to opponents. Off the field, challenge them to find one person who needs encouragement or help. Let their actions and words reflect God's love, drawing others closer to Him.

#### **Self-Reflection Questions:**

- 1. How can I show God's love through my actions this week?
- 2. Who can I encourage or share the hope of Jesus with today?
- 3. What does it mean to let my light shine for Christ?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for giving us the chance to share Your love with others. Help us to be kind, encouraging, and bold in our faith. Teach us to let our light shine in a way that draws others closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.