



## Week 8: The Ultimate Goal – Eternal Life

- **Theme:** Knowing Christ is the Ultimate Goal
- **Primary Scripture:** *Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
- **Additional Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 and 2 Timothy 4:8
- **Key Words:** Eternal Life, Training, Discipline
- **Connection to Sports:** In basketball, the goal is to score points and win the game. Athletes train hard, stay focused, and give their best effort to achieve victory. In life, our ultimate goal is far greater—knowing Jesus and spending eternity with Him. Just as athletes push themselves to reach their goals on the court, we are called to pursue Christ with perseverance and dedication.

## Practical Application for Sports and Life:

- **In sports:** stay focused on your goals by practicing hard, being a team player, and always giving your best effort.
- **In life:** remember that knowing Jesus and pursuing a relationship with Him is the ultimate goal. Keep your eyes on the eternal prize and live in a way that reflects your commitment to Christ.

## Challenge for the Athlete:

This week, give your best effort in practice or games, staying focused on your goals as a team. At home or school, think about how you can grow closer to Jesus by reading the Bible, praying, or talking to someone about Him. Remember, the ultimate goal isn't just winning—it's knowing and following Jesus every day!



## Devotional Script for Coaches: Week 8

“Great practice today! Let’s talk about the ultimate goal—not just in sports, but in life.

In basketball, the goal is to score points and win the game. To achieve that, players train hard, stay focused, and give their best effort. In life, our ultimate goal is even greater—knowing Jesus and spending eternity with Him. *Philippians 3:14* says, *'I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.'*

Just as athletes push themselves to reach their goals on the court, we are called to pursue Christ with perseverance and dedication. *1 Corinthians 9:24-25* reminds us, *'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.'* This discipline isn’t just for sports but for living a life that honors God.

*2 Timothy 4:8* says, *'There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day.'* Our ultimate prize is not a trophy or medal—it’s eternal life with Jesus. This should inspire us to keep our eyes on Him and live in a way that reflects our commitment to Christ.

### Practical Challenge:

Encourage your players to give their best effort in practice and games this week, staying focused on their goals as a team. Off the court, challenge them to grow closer to Jesus by reading the Bible, praying, or talking to someone about their faith. Remind them that the ultimate goal isn’t just winning—it’s knowing and following Jesus every day.

### Self-Reflection Questions:

1. Am I giving my best effort in pursuing a relationship with Jesus?
2. How can I stay focused on Christ, even with life’s distractions?
3. What can I do this week to grow closer to Jesus?

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for giving us the ultimate prize of eternal life through Jesus. Help us to stay focused on You and live with perseverance and dedication. Teach us to grow closer to You every day and reflect Your love in all we do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*