



Winter 2022

Memory Verses and Devotions

1. **“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”** *1 Thessalonians 5:11*

It happens every game. You see one of your teammates upset that they didn't make a shot or that they made a turnover. You even recognize the players on other teams get mad at themselves. What do you do? Encourage them! Tell them that it's okay and to make the most of the next opportunity. Build them up! Point out something that they do well and compliment them on it. Practice encouraging and building up your teammates and opposing teammates. You'll always have a shot during the game to offer encouragement. Try and do it in today's game. Don't miss your shot!

2. **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** *John 14:6*

There's only one-way to score points in basketball: to put the ball through the hoop! Just as there's only one-way to score in basketball there is only one-way to go to Heaven. That only-way is through Jesus Christ! Anybody can score with Jesus Christ! The best score to achieve is to confess your sins and place your faith and life in Jesus Christ. Having your scoreboard read “Saved through Jesus Christ” is the best score you'll ever have! Does your scoreboard read, “Saved by Jesus Christ?”

3. **“Pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful for Him.”** *1 Timothy 2:1*

It's easy to look at the opposing team and not want to be their friend because they're on the other team. This is not the best attitude to have. We need to see the other team as our friends too. Why? Because God created everyone in His own image, and He calls us to love other people. If we're mean to other people we're mean to God.

4. **“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”** *Ephesians 4:32*

Who has ever got fouled and became mad at the player who fouled you? Who has ever gotten mad at their brother or sister for picking on them or doing something mean? Getting mad is going to happen. But we don't always have to give back an angry or mean reaction. God calls us to be kind and loving to one another. Why, because people will see God in us when we do so. We are also called to forgive each other because God forgave us in Christ. Today, be kind and loving when you play basketball. If you get fouled forgive that person because God has forgiven us by giving us Jesus Christ.

5. **“I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.”** *Philippians 4:13*

This season we have learned many things in our devotion time together. At times it's probably been a little hard to do the things we have learned. Whenever doing the things you're told to do isn't easy know that we all have strength through Jesus Christ! Our own strength can't compare to the strength that we have through Jesus Christ. Today, play together as a team, all operating through Jesus Christ as your strength! In Jesus Christ you CAN do ALL things! Don't be afraid. You can do all things through Him who gives you strength.