

TEAM SPORTS devotions

1

Huddle Up

Matthew 5:1-2, Psalm 37:4



SAY

What do players do when the coach says “huddle up”? (players gather around the coach) **Who do the players listen closely to?** (the coach or team captain) **Why do we have a team huddle?** (to hear important information) The most important team huddle to ever happen is in the Bible. Jesus had a team of best friends called disciples. They went everywhere with Jesus. They watched Jesus help people in amazing ways. Crowds heard the wonderful news and came from all around. Jesus decided this was a good time to break for a team huddle to give his disciples some important information.



Jesus saw the crowds. So he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him. Then he began to teach them.

Matthew 5:1-2



THINK

If someone told you how to be really, really happy, would you listen? When Jesus sat down on the mountainside, the disciples gathered around him and listened closely, like you are gathered around me right now. Jesus loved his friends and wanted to tell them how to be blessed and truly happy. In this huddle, the disciples learned some new information about what matters to God and what makes us happy. **What does it mean to “delight”?** (having a strong feeling of happiness) Like the disciples, we think delighting in ourselves and getting what we want will make us happy. We like to go first, get the most, or have the best. But the Bible tells us, *“Find your delight in the Lord. Then he will give you everything your heart really wants.”* Psalm 37:4 When we enjoy God, we discover what our hearts really want. And we discover that only God can make our hearts feel truly happy.



ACT

Do we delight in the Lord by rushing to the front of the line or by letting others go first? Do we delight in the Lord by keeping it all or sharing with people who have less? Do we delight in the Lord by ignoring others so we can be at the top or by helping others do well too? What are some more ways we can delight in the Lord?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, help us delight in you more than ourselves. Give us a heart to want what you want more than what we want. Help us to huddle up and listen well to your teaching throughout this baseball season. Amen.

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Huddle Up

Matthew 5:1-2, 1 John 2:16, 1 Samuel 16:7



What happens in a team huddle? (instruction, encouragement, motivation, preparation for what's ahead) **Who do the players listen closely to?** (the coach, team captain) **Why are team huddles important?** The most important team huddle that has ever happened is recorded in the Bible by Matthew, one of the 12 members on Jesus' team. Huge crowds were following Jesus and his disciples. Everyone wanted to catch a glimpse of Jesus because they had heard of the miraculous things he was doing. The disciples were Jesus' closest friends and traveled everywhere with him. Jesus and his disciples were getting lots of attention. Jesus decided it was time for a team huddle. He had some important information to share with them.



Jesus saw the crowds. So he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him. Then he began to teach them.

Matthew 5:1-2



In Bible times, when a Jewish teacher sat down to teach, his students knew he had something very important to say. They would sit down close to him listening intently. When Jesus sat down on the mountainside, all ears perked up as he taught his disciples a critical lesson about what makes us truly fortunate, blessed, and happy in God's kingdom. **Think about what makes you feel fortunate, blessed, and happy. Name some things in this world that people consider themselves fortunate, blessed, and happy to have.** (money, friends, great talent or skill, important job, popularity, good health, good looks, comforts like a nice home, car, and clothing)



But what Jesus taught was the opposite of what the disciples expected to hear. Jesus turned everything upside down. True happiness has nothing to do with things the world gives like money, position, and looks. *1 John 2:16* says, "Here is what people who belong to this world do... They take pride in what they have and what they do. All of this comes from the world. None of it comes from the Father." Jesus isn't concerned with what we have, but who we are. *1 Samuel 16:7* says, "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart." **What would happen if we focused more on who we ARE than what we HAVE? What would happen if we look at who people are on the INSIDE instead of who they are on the OUTSIDE?**

PRAY

Heavenly Father, give us a heart to love the things of your kingdom more than the things of this world. Help us want what you want more than what we want. Help us huddle up and listen intently to your teaching throughout this season. Amen.