



**SOCCER**



**BASKETBALL**



**FLAG FOOTBALL**

**COACHES  
DEVOTIONAL**

Thank you  
Coach,

We want to thank you for volunteering your time to invest in these young players and their families this season. Being a coach is much more than teaching players the X's and O's of a sport. A lot of times you're a parental figure, a counselor, and a friend to these players and families. We cannot thank you enough for the time and energy you are giving to the program.

This devotional is for you and your team to go through during every practice and after every game. Going through the devotionals is the most important part of any practice or game. We all love to win and play well, but at the end of the day we want to glorify our God, and teach these players what our focus should actually be on everyday.

The devotional is set up to where you can read it straight through, or make it more a conversation between you and the players. Please understand we do not expect you to be a gifted speaker or have a deep understanding of the Bible. What we do expect is for you to have a heart for the Lord, and a love for your players.

We are so thankful for the time and energy you are pouring into this program, and wouldn't be able to do what we do without you.

We are excited to see what God has in store for the season!

-Crossover Staff

# THE BIBLE

**“1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” **John 1:1-5**

1. How many of you own a Bible?
2. How many of you read your Bible each week?
3. What is the importance of the Bible?

**W**hat is the Bible? Well, the Bible is an epic story that tells us who God is. It is broken up into two sections, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. And within these two sections there are 66 smaller books. These books were written by many different people over thousands of years. The Old Testament focuses on the Jewish people and how they live and interact with God and each other. In the Old Testament there were many prophecies pointing to a savior coming to save the Jewish people.

Then the New Testament begins and talks about a man named Jesus. He was the savior the Old Testament mentioned, and he came and fulfilled 351 prophecies in his lifetime! He performed many miracles and taught us how we are to live for God. See, Jesus lived out the Word that was written in the Old Testament, which is why John refers to Jesus as the “Word.” In the Bible we learn a lot about God, and how we are to live a life for Him.

As you read your Bible ask yourself, “What is God trying to teach me here?”

*Pray with your team, and ask God to give us a desire to read his word, and to show us what we are to learn from it.*

# THE TRINITY

**“18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” **Matthew 28:18-19**

1. Who has heard the term, “The Trinity” before? Can you name all three parts?
2. What does it mean “God is three in one” to you?

**T**he trinity is a very hard concept to understand, and it is okay if you do not. We won’t fully understand it until we are in heaven. However, the Bible does give us clues on how they interact with one another, and how each part is different and yet the same.

The Trinity consists of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and each one plays a different role in our life. Think of each part of God a different Identity for the same person, like how some people go by multiple names. What Jesus tells his disciples in Matthew 28 was a huge statement! He declared that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all share the same power and are all on the same level.

Yet all together these different Identities are one God. In Deuteronomy 6 the Jewish people would start each morning with a prayer that said, “Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” They would remind themselves there is only One God, and he deserves all their praise and worship.

So as you go through your day look for ways you can praise God.

*Pray with your team, and ask God to reveal himself to each of us as our Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

# GOD THE FATHER

“In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth”

## **Genesis 1:1**

1. When you think of your dad, what are some words that come to mind?
2. When you think of God, what words come to your mind?
3. What is something that you spend a lot of time doing?

**W**e see in Genesis 1:1 that God is the creator of everything. Nothing has come before God, and nothing has been created without God. This is the first attribute of God we read about, and the first he reveals to us. Why is that?

Well if we look at the first and second commandments God gave Moses we see he tells us we should have no other gods besides Him, and that we are not to create any images of anything from above, on earth, or from the deep waters. God is a jealous God, and he wants all of our attention.

Many of us spend a lot of our day seeking things God has created, and where we spend our time is what we love. If we are thinking about sports more than God, then we have made sports our Idol. If we are thinking about friends more than God then we have put those people before God. God requires that we put him above all else since he has created everything. We should want the creator more than his creation.

So as you go through your day be looking for ways to look for God more than anything else.

*Pray with your team, and ask God to work in all our lives so we may focus on Him more than anything else in the world.*

# GOD THE SON

**“19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

## **Colossians 1:19-20**

1. When you think of Jesus, what are words that come to your mind?
2. Jesus came to show us how to live for God, what does that look like?
3. What are some ways you can live for God this week?

**T**his week we are discussing the second part of the Trinity, Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God, but is also part of God. As we read above in Colossians, the fullness of God lived inside of Him. What is so confusing about Jesus is he is fully man and fully God at the same time. In Luke 1:15 we see the Angel Gabriel come to Mary and tells her she is going to have a son and, “The Holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.” We also know Jesus was fully man. Many times in the Bible we see where Jesus had human emotions, wept in John 11:33, in Matthew 8:10 Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith, and In John 13:21 we know his spirit was troubled.

Jesus being both fully God and fully human came to earth to do two things, the first to show us how to live a life pleasing to God. He did this through his love, kindness, and compassion he showed to others. And the second was to reconcile us back to God. Jesus came down to die on the cross, the greatest act of love, so that we may have a relationship with God the Father.

As we continue to live our lives let us get into the Bible more and see how Jesus interacts with everyone. Let's also remember how much Jesus did for us on the cross.

*Pray with your team, and thank Jesus for all he has done. Thank him for living the perfect life and dying for our sins.*

# GOD THE SPIRIT

**“7**Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” **John 16:7**

1. Who is someone you go to for help, advice, or comforting?
2. Do you feel bad after doing something wrong,?

**T**oday we will be discussing the Holy Spirit, wrapping up talking about the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the third part of God, and has been around since before creation. In Genesis 1:2 we see that the “Spirit was hovering over the darkness.” Later, as Jesus is about to be arrested and crucified He calls the Holy Spirit “the Helper,” which is what He is.

The Holy Spirit plays a major role in our life, even when we do not realize it. If we have a relationship with the Father, through Jesus, then we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us. The same power that Jesus had living inside of Him, now lives inside those who have a relationship with God.

The Spirit plays a few roles in our lives. He is called the advocate, helper, and comforter in different parts of the Bible. He is our advocate because He is on our side, fighting for us to stay away from evil. The Spirit is our Helper because He is the one who guides us to truth, and helps us understand the Bible’s teachings. He is also our comforter because He reminds us of the peace of God, and heals our soul.

We should be thanking God everyday for the Spirit, and the roles He plays in our lives each day. Looks for ways this week to be talking with the Spirit more.

*Pray with your team, and ask the Holy Spirit to be working in each of your lives.  
Thank Him for all He does, and allow room for Him to work.*

## DAY 6

# SIN

““You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. **5**“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **Genesis 3:4-5**

1. What is sin?
2. What are some ways you may have sinned this last week?

**W**e all struggle with sin in some way. We see here in Genesis 3 the first sin introduced to the world. A lot of us say we would not have eaten from the tree if we were in Eve’s shoes, but I highly doubt that.

See, the devil is very good about deceiving us on a daily basis. Sin comes from us not believing God has the best intentions for us. We think we know what is best, so we do what we want. We see in this passage where Eve is told she will know all that God knows, so that is why she takes the fruit and eats it. She believes that is better than what God has intended for her,

This happens with us to, does it not? We think our own desires and wants are better than what God desires and wants for us. We need to remember that God is the creator of everything, and our loving Father. As a loving Father, he does not want us to be trapped by sin, but rather free through him and his Son.

So while we continue to go about our days, lets remember God knows what is best for us. We should be reading the Bible and praying so we know what he has called us to do.

*Pray with your team, and thank God for giving us his word, so we know what he has planned for us. Let us repent of the sins in our life.*



# SALVATION

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.” **Ephesians 2:8-9**

1. What does it mean to be forgiven?
2. What does it mean you do not have to work for your salvation?

**W**hat a blessing that we do not have to work for our salvation! Back in the Old Testament there were real consequences for sin. Based on the sin you had to kill an animal and sprinkle the blood, and burn the animal as a sacrifice for your sin. The same thing had to happen for us, but Jesus was that sacrifice for us.

In Romans it talks about how the wages of sin is death. Because we are all sinners we cannot be with God in heaven. But because He loves us so much he sent his son, Jesus, to die on the cross so we may be forgiven for the sins we commit. Jesus tells his disciples that the only way to the Father is through Him. All you have to do is believe you are a sinner, and Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross and rose 3 days later. That his blood was enough to cover our sins and he conquered death by rising again.

It's that simple. God wants you to first believe. Remember you do not have to work for your salvation, but there should be a change in your life once you accept Christ as your Savior. In John 14:15 Jesus says, “If you love me, keep my commands.” Out of love and thanks, we are to not just believe but obey.

Remember this as you go out this week. God loves you so much he sent his son to die for you. That is true love.

*Pray with your team thanking Him for his Son, and sending him on the cross to die for us. Walk through salvation with the players that feel ready.*

# BAPTISM

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>[a]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,’” **Matthew 28:18-19**

1. What does baptism mean to you?
2. Have you been baptized?

**A**s we talked about last time, there is nothing we can do to work for or earn our salvation. But we did learn that if we love God, then we should obey his commands. And one of the first things God commands us to do once we begin to follow Him is to be baptized.

As we read in Matthew 28, being baptized is what we are called to do once we are following God. There are only two conditions that have to be met before you can be baptized. One is believing in the Gospel, and the second is repenting of your sins. We have to understand that being baptized does not save us, it's an act of obedience once we are saved.

Again, baptism does not save anyone. Remember we discussed how only by faith we are saved, and not by our works. The purpose of baptism is to express the change Jesus already has made in your life. When you get baptized you are telling people that you have accepted Christ as your Lord and savior, which means the other disciples of Jesus are to hold you to the standard Christ has given us.

As we go, remember throughout your day that as a follower of Jesus we are held to this higher standard,

*Pray with your team, and thank God for baptism and what it represents. Thank him for the accountability this gives each of us.*

# COMMUNION

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.<sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the <sup>[b]</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” **Matthew 26:26-28**

1. How do you remember Jesus?
2. How often do you remember Jesus each day?

I am so thankful that Jesus showed us how to remember him! I do not know about you, but I can remember with my mind what Jesus did for me, but I understand and remember so much better when I am participating in the remembrance.

Jesus started communion himself with his disciples the night of his betrayal. This is something we still do to this day as Christians. Paul in 1 Corinthians tells us we are to take communion to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. We are to participate in communion to remind ourselves that not only do we need food and drink to live physically, but more than that we need Jesus to live spiritually.

Now we need to understand how sacred taking communion is. We should only take it if we believe in Jesus, have repented for our sins, and are not fighting with anyone. Paul tells us people got sick for not taking common correctly. But we should do it as often as we need to.

Let us remember as often as we can what Jesus did for us on the cross.

*Pray with your team, and thank God for what Jesus had to endure on the cross.  
Remember his blood was spilled for our sins.*

# PRAYER

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." **Ephesians 6:18**

1. When do you find yourself praying?
2. What are some things you pray/have prayed for?

I love that we get to communicate and pray to our Father! Think about it, how amazing is it that the creator of the whole universe wants to hear from you! It's mind blowing to think about. And as Paul wrote in Ephesians, we are to pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

God wants to have an intimate relationship with each of you. And if you think about your best friends, they are probably the people you hang out with the most. That is what God wants from us, He wants us to be praying to him constantly. He wants to hear from you in all circumstances.

What I also love about prayer is that it is humbling. I bet some of us need to be humbled a bit more. When we pray to God, asking his help and strength, we are telling God we cannot do this life alone, and we need him. Too many times we try to do things by ourselves instead of Going to God.

So let's remember to pray more in our lives. The bible tells us God hears our prayers. He is actively pursuing us, and we should be doing the same. The power of prayer works, we just have to remember to pray. We can go to him with all kinds of prayers, but we must be praying for one another.

*Pray with your team, and thank God for listening to our prayers. Pray for each other on your team as well for the families your impacting as the coach.*

# READING THE BIBLE

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

## **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

1. What is the purpose of reading the Bible?
2. How often do you read the Bible?

**S**o many times people go to the Bible to find answers to their lives. They treat the Bible like a map for their life they are supposed to follow. The bible does give us direction for our lives, but it also does so much more. The bible is here for us to understand who god is more than anything.

As we see in the scripture above, the Bible is meant for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. In other words it is meant to do more than just tell us what we are allowed and not allowed to do. The bible is here for us to learn who God is through the story of His people. We are to be taught through the Bible.

I love verse 17, it explains the why we are to get into the Word. So the servants of God will be thoroughly equipped for every good work. The bible is supposed to get all of us ready to do the good work God has planned. If we do not know who God is, then how are we to know what He has planned for us?

Let us remember to read the Bible daily. This will allow us to have a better understanding of who God is, and what his plans are for us. So we me be the people God has called us to be.

*Pray with your team, and thank God for for his Word. Pray that we may get into the word more and not merely just read it, but live it out.*

# CHURCH

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,<sup>[d]</sup> but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by<sup>[e]</sup> the Spirit.” **Ephesians 2:19-22**

1. How many of you are part of a church?
2. Would you say you are known by the love you show others?

**T**he church today looks very different from the early church Paul was writing about here. Back then we can read in Acts that the church met and broke bread together, coming together constantly, and sharing everything so no one was without. To a lot of us this sounds impossible, but yet it happened.

It starts with us understanding that we are to be united in love for God and one another. Jesus tells us based on our love for one another we should be attractive to the world. Think about the world as an orphanage, and they have two choices of families that want to adopt them. One is arguing and fighting with one another constantly, while the other is a loving family that gets along and works together. Which one do you think they would choose?

The church is supposed to this loving family united through Christ. We are to love more than the world does. Let us remember this as we are out in school, our communities, and with our families. The church, you and I, are to love better than anyone. This is what will attract people to Jesus.

*Pray with your team that you will love just as Jesus loves the Church. Pray God shows us all ways that we can love people more.*

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5** and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; **6** and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” **1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

1. What are some things you are good at?
2. How can you use this gifts/talents to lead people to Jesus?

**L**et us remember that God is the greatest gift giver of all time. He gives us the breath in our lungs, our family and friends, joy, peace, and even eternal life if we chose to accept it. He has also made each of us unique with different talents, abilities, and gifts he has given us.

As we read above each gift is given by the Spirit for the variety of services. There are lots of ways we can use the gifts God gave us. Some of us are great teachers, others are great musicians, some of us have great patience to work with students, and so on. What we need to remember is that no gift is greater than another.

We are all given these gifts so we can use them for the common good. The common good however is in the church, and sharing the Gospel. Yeah it is great to use our gifts and abilities in other places, but true joy comes from using what God gave us to share the Gospel.

So let us look for ways in our lives to use the talents and gifts God have given us to share the Gospel and love of Jesus.

*Pray with your team, and thank God for a great season. As the season comes to a close let us remember all God has done, and to use our gifts for him.*