



VERTICAL SPORTS

3D DEVOTIONAL

5/2 Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

Sport: Focus On Your Position – Part of basketball is knowing where you are on the court and your responsibility. One key aspect is owning your position – where you are playing on the court at a given time. If the ball or player comes into your zone (or if you're playing a man-to-man defense) you have to be ready to defend or attack to establish your teams offensive possession. If you aren't paying attention, fail to talk to your teammates, or freeze up, you can lose focus and take yourself out of the play. It's important to remain focused on your position and the game!

Life: Staying in Focus – It can be a hard task to keep your focus. Work and Home especially, you have a bunch of different tasks to do, it can be hard to keep up. But as you go throughout the day and you can stay focused you can be prepared for each responsibility. Even at home, doing chores around the house, or working on projects can easily take longer when our focus is somewhere else. You might find yourself thinking about a sporting event or a game you want to play later, and that project ends up taking longer than you planned. Or you might even do it the wrong way and have to start all over.

Truth: Israel Loses Focus – We just heard about God giving to Moses the 10 commandments, so just a little recap. God calls Moses to go up to a mountain called Mount Sinai. Here is where God gave Moses the 10 Commandments among other commands. But Moses was up there for 40 days! The people of Israel didn't know how long Moses was going to be up there and in the time Moses was gone they grew impatient and lost focus on God.

Exodus 32:1 When the people saw that Moses delayed in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us who will go before us because this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt—we don't know what has happened to him!"

They now wanted their own little "g" god. Remember they just came from Egypt where they were around little "g" gods for years and years. So now they wanted one for themselves. Instead of focusing on what God had done for them, the amazing things they had seen Him do, and His presence being with them – They wanted a god made for themselves. They made an idol (An idol is anything that takes the place of and is worshipped above God in the Old Testament we learn of different idols formed after false gods made up of material things such as stone or wood).

Even in our life we can take our eyes off God, what he has done for us, ways we have seen Him work in our lives, and even knowing He is with us – and create idols in our life that become more important, and we give more of our time and energy toward those things.

What are some things that could become or are an idol in our lives? (sports, money, video games, success, status)

One thing to think about... Can basketball be an idol? yes. But what if you begin to think about it differently. Praise God that he gave James Naismith the creativity to create this game, as you watch and play the game be amazed at the God given ability you as players have. Praise God, for the game of basketball and that can lead you to pray for players you watch, players you play with, and begin to talk more about God during times you play the game.

Pray

Always give opportunity for kids/parents to respond, let them know that they can always talk to you after practice.