

# RECREATION

## *Youth Basketball Devotional*

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**January 16, 2025 // God's Goodness Is Revealed Through His Design**

### **Sports/Life**

- Imagine a coach who meticulously designs a game plan for the ideal play. Every aspect is purposeful: the players, the timing, the strategy. When executed flawlessly, it leads to a triumphant victory. Everything serves a specific purpose, and nothing occurs by chance.
- In a similar manner, God created everything with a purpose. From the vastness of the universe to the smallest details in nature, His design embodies His goodness.

### **Scripture: Genesis 1:1**

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**

### **Application**

- When we understand that our lives are part of God's beautiful design, it shifts our perspective. We can trust that everything in our life—our challenges, our relationships, our work—is part of God's intentional plan. Just as a coach designs the perfect play, God has designed your life with a purpose. Embrace it!

### **Prayer**



# RECREATION

## *Youth Basketball Devotional*

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**January 18, 2025 // God's Goodness Is Revealed Through His Desires**

### **Sports/Life**

- God desires for us to experience fulfillment in relationships, purpose, and provision. He doesn't want us to go through life alone but to thrive in community with Him and others.

### **Scripture: Genesis 2:18**

**Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."**

### **Application**

- God desires for you to have community, not only with Him but with others. He desires to provide for your needs—whether emotional, physical, or spiritual—and He gives you a purpose that is bigger than yourself. When we understand this, we can lean into God's desires for us, trusting that He wants the best for our lives.

### **Prayer**



# RECREATION

## *Youth Basketball Devotional*

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**January 20, 2025 // God Uses People Who Struggle With Fear**

### **Sports/Life**

- Picture a basketball player facing a crucial free throw in the final seconds of the game. The pressure is mounting, and fear begins to creep in. But the player breathes, focuses, and takes the shot—knowing that despite the fear, he’s prepared and capable.
- Just like athletes overcome fear in critical moments, God uses people who are filled with fear to accomplish His purposes. Even in our fear, God is at work.

### **Scripture: Genesis 49:31**

**There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.**

### **Application**

- Fear is a natural part of life. But God doesn’t abandon us in our fear. When we are afraid, we can pray, praise, and pursue wisdom—just as Abraham did. God uses us not because we are perfect, but because He is faithful. Fear does not disqualify you; it’s an opportunity for God to show His power through your weakness.

### **Prayer**



# RECREATION

## *Youth Basketball Devotional*

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**January 27, 2025 // God Uses People Who Struggle With Favoritism**

### **Sports/Life**

- Imagine a coach who favors one player over the rest of the team. This creates division and resentment. The team becomes fragmented, and performance suffers. Favoritism can poison a team's unity.
- Isaac and Rebekah's favoritism in Genesis fractured their family, leading to deceit and strife. Similarly, favoritism in our lives can lead to destruction and division.

### **Scripture: [Genesis 25:28](#)**

**Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating the wild game Esau brought home, but Rebekah loved Jacob**

### **Application**

- God calls us to treat people equally and fairly. Favoritism, whether at home, in friendships, or at work, disrupts harmony and obedience. If we recognize favoritism in our own lives, we must seek reconciliation and fairness. Just as God works with us despite our faults, He calls us to embrace unity and treat others with love and respect.

### **Prayer**



# RECREATION

## *Youth Basketball Devotional*

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**January 30, 2025 // When Suffering Comes, Remember to Grieve**

### **Sports/Life**

- Think of an athlete who has trained for years, only to suffer a career-ending injury. It's heartbreaking, and the natural reaction is to grieve the loss of the dream. But grieving allows the athlete to heal, process the loss, and eventually move forward.
- Similarly, in life, when we face suffering, God invites us to grieve—honestly and openly—as a path to healing

### **Scripture: Job 1:20**

**Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.**

### **Application**

- Suffering is part of life, but how we respond to it matters. Grieving allows us to process pain, find healing, and eventually move toward restoration. Don't rush through grief; allow yourself to feel, pray, and seek comfort from God. God meets us in our pain and offers us His peace.

### **Prayer**

