



# VERTICAL SPORTS DEVOTIONAL GAME DAY 2

## Whose Team Are You On?

**Sport:** Teams across sports can be recognized by what? Their Jersey, right? I can't remember many teams in the past who, during their game are wearing the wrong team's uniform. TO my knowledge in order to compete they have to have matching uniforms. For us, that's how we recognize where we are headed once we get to the field – we look for folks wearing the same jersey as us. We identify with them. We are on their team. We support each other, encourage each other, and coach each other up.

**Life:** This can relate to our family – “the home team” – corny dad joke. We recognize each other – we find our identity in the role we play in our family. We have certain responsibilities. We may not have a jersey that we wear, but we know we are a part of that family.

**Truth:** What does the Bible say about our identity? Let's go back to the start...“In the beginning...” This is a phrase you might be familiar with. It comes from the Bible in Genesis 1:1. Chapter 1 of Genesis takes us through the six days of creation. When God came to the creation of man in the first part of v. 26 the Bible says,

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’”

So we see the creation of the world and everything in it and that God said it was very good, so what happened? Why are things not like they were in the Garden of Eden? It is because of something called “The Fall of Man.” Adam and Eve had an encounter with the serpent (Satan), who was enticing Eve to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. This is the one tree that God commanded Adam and Eve to not eat from. Eve ate and then gave some to Adam who chose to eat the fruit from the tree.

This is when sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve disobeyed God. When they ate the fruit their eyes were opened and they realized that they were naked and they were ashamed of what they had done and who they were.

We can read Romans 5:12 that says, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned-“It states that sin came through one man – death came into the world because of sin – and death spread to everyone because everyone sins.

As we live in this sinful, fallen world, people tend to seek their identity in other places. It might be work, relationships, athletics, or material things. All of those things do not satisfy and ultimately, we will be right back where we started ashamed of who we are. God, foreseeing in his infinite knowledge made a way for us in Christ Jesus. Jesus came lived a perfect life, died in our place on the cross, was buried, and after three days rose from the dead conquering death, hell, and the grave. When we repent of our sin and put our faith in Jesus, he transforms us to be like him. Our identity changes, we no longer look to the things of the world that will let us down, but we find our identity in Christ.

### Discussion Questions:

Can you share an example of when you were let down by seeking your identity in something of the world? (personal experience).

**PRAY:** That we would not put our hope in the things of the world, but find out identity in The Lord.

