



Memory Challenge & Devotions
Winter Basketball 2011-2012

Nov 14-19

1. Do not be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. – John 14:1

It is difficult to go through your life without worrying about something. Whether you are a kid, a teenager, or an adult, there will always be problems to deal with. If you spend your time worrying, you are not trusting God. Jesus said that we shouldn't let the problems we have, trouble us. Rather, you should ask God for help through prayer and trust him to give you the strength, courage, and resources you need to solve problems. Trusting in God and Jesus helps remove doubt and fear from your heart.

Nov 28-Dec 3

2. Don't speak evil and don't speak lies. – Psalm 34:13

When you play basketball, control is very important. For a team to be successful, they must have a good point guard. A player who can dribble the ball and make good passes to set up teammates with good shots is crucial to having success on the basketball court. Without a player that can control the basketball and the pace of the game, there are turnovers, missed shots, and bad execution. Your mouth is like the point guard of your body. If you cannot control your tongue and the things you say, it can lead to a lot of trouble. By lying and saying hurtful things, you can tear others down and eventually lose your friends. On the other hand, if you control your mouth and say helpful things, people will be drawn to you and you can be a positive influence. What you say can either draw you closer to God or push you farther away.

Dec 5-10

**3. In all things God works for the good of those who love him,...
– Romans 8:28**

Why do bad things happen to good people? This is a question a lot of kids and adults don't know the answer to. It is difficult to understand why things don't always work out the way you think they should, but one thing that you can be sure of is that God has your best interest at heart. Sometimes God takes you through difficult times to teach you something. God has a plan for you and in everything he is working to bring you closer to him. God loves you and only wants the best for you. Always believe that he is working for your good and his glory.

Dec 12-17

4. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. – James 4:10

Being humble is not an easy thing to do. The opposite of humility is pride. God tells us to be humble, but your human tendency is to be proud and to make other people think highly of you.

See Back

It is especially easy to become proud when you play sports. If you are winning, you might think that you are better than everyone else. If you are losing, you might think you are too good to play on a losing team. Being humble is all about accepting where God has you and building others up. God wants you to have an attitude of humility. Let God take care of making you look good. Your job is to build others up.

Jan 2-7

5. Jesus Christ never changes. – *Hebrews 13:8*

Many things in your life are changing. As you grow up, the school you go to will change, your friends will change, and even your likes and dislikes will change. It is not easy to count on something or somebody for very long. Everybody can let you down and disappoint you, even your parents and close friends. There may even be a time when you let yourself down. The Bible says that we can always count on Jesus. He does not change. No matter what is changing in your life, Jesus is always rock-solid. You can trust that God will never break his promise and he'll always keep his word. You can depend on him.

Jan 9-14

6. Be kind and forgive each other,.... – *Ephesians 4:32a*

Have you ever made a really bad mistake? Maybe it was all your fault and there was no way to blame anyone else because it was obvious you were the only one to blame. It feels awful, doesn't it? You get a lump in your throat and butterflies in your stomach just thinking about what your parents, friends, and family might say or think. Now, think about how good it would feel if they said, "It's OK. I forgive you." Wow, that's a lot of weight off your back. That is what God did for you. He forgives you for the wrong you have done and wants you to pass that on to others by forgiving each other. Next time someone makes a mistake, remember how it feels to be forgiven.

Jan 16-21

7. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord– *Psalms 150:6*

There is nothing like a pat on the back from a teammate or a coach after making a tough shot or a great play. It feels great when your mom and dad are proud of you when you make a good grade on a test. Everyone likes to receive praise. That includes God. Just think about how much God has done to deserve your praise. He created not only people, but everything else in the world. He is in control of the whole universe. Best of all, He loves you and knows you like nobody else. God is always worthy and deserving of your praise.