

CHAMP SPORTS DEVOTIONAL



FALL 2025

CHAMP Office – 704.341.5387
Weather Hotline – 704.341.5473
www.champsportsinfo.com

Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

Season Schedule

Practices Begin: Week of August 25
Uniform Distribution: Week of August 25
Game Schedules: Week of September 2
Opening Day: Saturday, September 6
Season Ends: November 1

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Updated Mon-Fri. at 3:00 PM; Sat. at 7:30 AM

**Join us weekly for Sunday morning
worship at 9:45 AM in person or via livestream.**

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Welcome to CHAMP Sports!

40 Days (Acts 1)

Week of August 25-29

Welcome to CHAMP Sports! We are so happy that you are here! This season at CHAMP we will be talking about the book of Acts. The book of Acts is the fifth book in the New Testament. It was written by Luke—the same man who wrote the Gospel of Luke—and it talks about what happened after Jesus rose from the dead.

How long ago did Jesus rise from the dead? Jesus rose from the dead about two thousand years ago! How long did Jesus stay on the earth after He rose from the dead before He went back up into heaven? Jesus stayed on the earth for forty days after God raised Him from the dead. During those forty days Jesus went to His disciples and showed them that He was alive!

Why did Jesus want His disciples to know that He was alive? First, they were heartbroken when He died. Jesus wanted each of His disciples to know that He wasn't dead anymore! Second, Jesus wanted His disciples to be His witnesses. He wanted His disciples to tell the world about Him—His life, His death, His resurrection, and His kingdom.

How were the disciples supposed to do this incredible job? Jesus told them: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). It is only by God's power that we can do God's work!

The forty days after Jesus rose from the dead were days of celebration! Can you imagine being with Jesus after He rose from the dead? Can you imagine hearing from Jesus' own lips that He had defeated Satan at the cross, destroyed the sting of death, which is sin, and opened a way into the Most Holy Place where God sits on His throne?!

What about you? Do you know God? What is God like? What must we do in order to become God's children? Who is Jesus? Who is the Holy Spirit? What does God want us to do with our lives? What does God want us to do each day? We will think about these questions this season as we study the Acts of the Apostles.

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Questions: What do witnesses do? [They tell people what they saw or heard.] Who is Jesus? [Jesus is God's Son.] What are some of the things that Jesus did during His 3 ½ years of ministry on earth?

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A Rushing Mighty Wind (Acts 2)

Week of September 2-6

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended (that He means He went up) to heaven. When Jesus arrived in heaven he sat down at the “right hand of the Majesty on high” (Hebrews 1:3). Jesus is sitting on the throne of heaven right now! He is King of kings and Lord of lords!

After Jesus ascended to heaven, his disciples did what He asked them to do—they stayed in Jerusalem and waited for Jesus to “clothe them with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).

The disciples waited for one whole day, then another, and then another, and then a week had gone by and they were still waiting. And then, on the tenth day, the Day of Pentecost arrived, and something wonderful happened—Jesus poured out His Holy Spirit on His disciples.

In Acts 2, we read, “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4).

Why did God give us the Holy Spirit? There are so many reasons. 1) God wants to live inside of us and fill us with His eternal life. 2) God wants to wash our hearts and cleanse us from all that isn’t right. 3) God wants us to know Him and love Him. 4) God wants us to have wisdom so that we can live our lives well. 5) God wants us to have courage and boldness to tell other people the Good News about His Son, Jesus Christ. 6) God wants us to encourage one another and build each other up. 7) God wants our lives to be full of His love, His joy, His peace, His patience, His kindness, His goodness, His faithfulness, His gentleness, and His self-control.

As soon as the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to tell of God’s mighty works in many different languages! What does that mean? It means that God wants everyone in our world—no matter what language they speak—to hear the good news about Jesus.

In order to live the life that God wants us to live, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives each and every day. Will you ask God to help you “walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16)?

Acts 4:31

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Questions: How many languages are spoken in our world today? [About 7,000.] How many of these languages have had some or all of the Bible translated into them? [About 3,770.]

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

No Silver or Gold (Acts 3)

Week of September 8-13

One morning, after Jesus had gone back up to heaven, Peter and John were going to the temple. As they were going, they saw a man who couldn't walk. This man had been lame from the time that he was born. Each day, the man sat at the Beautiful Gate to the temple and asked people for money. Money is valuable! Money can buy food. Money can hire servants. Money can pay for a house to live in. Money can do all sorts of things!

As Peter and John were passing by the man who could not walk, the man asked Peter and John for money. Most people that the man asked for money probably ignored him, but not Peter and John. Peter stopped and looked at the man, as did John, and Peter said to the man, "Look at us."

At that point, the man thought that Peter and John would give him some money, but the man was in for a surprise! "Peter said, 'I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him" (Acts 3:6-10).

Peter didn't have silver or gold, but what did Peter have?! Peter had faith in God, and he had a personal relationship with God. Somehow, maybe by prayer, certainly by faith, Peter knew that when he spoke to this man in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, God would heal him.

What happened after the man was healed?! The man leapt up and praised God! When the people saw this man walking, leaping, and praising God, they were amazed, and Jesus Christ was glorified!

God wants us each one of us to have a personal relationship with Him. He wants us to know Him. He wants us to walk with Him. He wants us to do His will and be amazed by the things that His great and mighty works!

Psalm 111:2

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Questions: What are some of the great and mighty works that God has done in the Bible?

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We Must Obey God! (Acts 4)

Week of September 15-20

The good news about Jesus Christ is very good news, but not everyone wants to hear God's good news. Imagine the shock when the political and religious leaders of Israel first heard the news that Jesus had been raised from the dead! For them, Jesus' resurrection was terrible news! They had worked very hard to put Jesus to death, and now He was alive?!

What happened when the religious and political leaders of Israel heard that Jesus' disciples were healing people and telling people that Jesus was alive? What does the Bible say? "And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody [probably jail] until the next day, for it was already evening" (Acts 4:1-3).

The next day, the leaders of Israel asked Peter and John, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" (Acts 4:7). What did Peter and John say? Peter said, "Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well" (Acts 4:10).

The rulers of Israel couldn't deny that a man who could not walk from birth had been healed, but they didn't want the good news of Jesus to be preached anymore, so they warned Peter and John not to speak to anyone in the name of Jesus. However, Peter and John said, "'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.' And when they [the leaders of Israel] had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened" (Acts 4:19-21).

Sometimes, like Peter and John, we have to do hard things because they are the right things.

How can we know what's right and wrong? We can know what's right and wrong by studying the Bible and praying for wisdom. Then, when we know what God says is right, we must pray for the courage to stand firm in God's truth!

Psalm 105:4

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Questions: How much power does God have? [All-power; God is omnipotent!] Are you seeking the Lord? How can we seek the Lord? [By studying His Word. By putting our trust in Him each day. By prayer.]

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Salvation in No One Else (Invitation Week)

Week of September 22-27

John 14:6 is one of the most famous verses in the Bible. Can anyone recite John 14:6? “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (John 14:6). Is this true? Is Jesus the only Way to the Father? It is true, but why is it true?

Who is God? What is God like? God tells us that He is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). What does this mean? It means that God Himself is pure and clean and that nothing impure and unclean can live with Him. What is our problem? Our problem is that we aren’t 100% pure and clean. All of us have done or said things that we know aren’t right, so how can we live with a holy God if we ourselves aren’t 100% pure and clean? The answer is that Jesus can make us clean!

How does Jesus make us clean? First, Jesus had to live a perfect human life. Jesus lived a perfect human life when He came down from Heaven and lived among us for 33 years. When Jesus was examined by the leaders of this world, they couldn’t find anything wrong with Him! However, this wasn’t the real test. The real test was whether or not God the Father would find anything wrong with Jesus. How do we know that God didn’t find anything wrong with Jesus? We know that God didn’t find anything wrong with Jesus because God raised Jesus from the dead! If Jesus had sinned in any way while He was living among us, God would not have raised Him from the dead, but God did raise Jesus from the dead! This proves that Jesus’ life was 100% pure and clean!

The good news of the gospel is that God has raised His Son, Jesus, from the dead and that if we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God will fill us with the perfect life of Jesus so that we can be washed clean and live with God forever and ever in His eternal kingdom. Do you want to believe in Jesus?

****Coaches, please present “The Gospel” devotion on the next page. If any players on your team respond by praying to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior, have them sign their name in their own handwriting on the card provided. Please return signed cards to the equipment shed. When we follow up with players we will give them their signed card to take home. Thank you!*

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

The Gospel

Invitation Week Continued (September 22-27)

What is the gospel? The gospel is God's good news about His Son Jesus Christ.

What is the good news? The good news is that God sent Jesus Christ into the world to save sinners.

How did we become sinners? By disobeying God. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Each one of us has also disobeyed God.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

The bad news is that:

"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a).

The good news is that:

"the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23b).

How do we receive God's free gift?

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

What does it mean to "believe in the Lord Jesus"?

It means that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died to pay the penalty for our sins, that He was buried, and on the third day God raised Him from the dead. It means that we receive Christ as our Savior and surrender our lives to Him as our personal Lord and Master.

Jesus promised, "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33). Today, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

If you want to believe in Jesus and confess Him as your Savior and Lord today, please raise your hand. If you have raised your hand, please pray this prayer with me.

Heavenly Father, today I believe in your Son, Jesus. I believe that He died to pay the penalty for my sins and that He was raised from the dead so that I could be justified and receive eternal life in His name. Today, I surrender my life to Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and acknowledge Him before men. Thank you, Jesus, for saving me! Amen.

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Jailbreak! (Acts 5)

Week of September 29 – October 4

What is a miracle? A miracle is a powerful work of God that seems impossible but is possible because “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

If you had to guess, how many miracles would you say are described in the Bible? People disagree about what qualifies as a miracle, but most people estimate that there are somewhere between 150 and 200 different miracles described in the Bible. Of these, about half happen in the New Testament, and twenty of those happen in the book of Acts. However, if we counted each person who was healed by Jesus or by his twelve apostles, the number of miracles in the Bible would be far more than 200!

It is common to read in the Bible things like, “And all the crowd sought to touch him [Jesus], for power came out from him and healed them all” (Luke 6:19), and “Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. [...] And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed” (Acts 5:12, 14-16).

Can you imagine what it would be like to see an entire hospital of people healed at once?! Can you imagine what it would be like to see an entire stadium of people believe in the Lord Jesus together?! But not everyone was pleased that Jesus was healing the multitudes. The high priest and all who were with him were filled with jealousy. The people were turning to Jesus! The people were giving their lives to Jesus! The people were rejoicing in Jesus! What to do?!

To slow down the apostles, the high priest “arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.” But God wasn’t having it. Time for a miracle! “During the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ‘Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.’ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach” (Acts 5:19-21). Amazing! God wants everyone to hear “all the words of ‘this Life.’” What Life is God talking about? He’s talking about Jesus!

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Questions: Have you given your life to Jesus? What are some of the things that you are grateful for?

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Seven Servants (Acts 6)

Week of October 6-11

Are you a hard worker? Sometimes studying for a test or going to practice can be hard work! If we want to be good at the things that we do, we have to work hard!

God thinks work is good. In the beginning, God worked for six days creating the heavens and the earth and every living thing, and then He rested. When God gave the Ten Commandments to Israel, He said, “Six days you shall labor, and do all your work” (Exodus 20:9). In the New Testament, God says, “If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

After Jesus went back to heaven, Jesus’ twelve disciples were very busy! They were teaching and preaching. They were praying. There were meals to be served to widows who needed help. It was too much! They needed help! What could they do?

“And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’” (Acts 6:2-4).

From this we learn two important things. First, we learn that preaching the word of God is incredibly important! How will people hear the good news about Jesus if the good news isn’t preached?! Preaching the good news about Jesus is a lot of work! Preachers have to study the whole Bible carefully so that they can tell people the truth about Jesus. This takes a lot of time and energy!

Second, we learn that taking care of people is also incredibly important! The disciples didn’t want just anybody to serve food to the widows, they wanted “men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom” (Acts 6:3). Why did the disciples want men who were “full of the Spirit” to serve? The disciples wanted men who were “full of the Spirit” to serve because they believed that everything—from the greatest task to the smallest job—should be done to the glory of God. How do we do things to the glory of God? We allow God to fill us with His Spirit so that we can truly love one another as God has loved us (John 13:34).

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Questions: Are you “full of the Spirit”? What kinds of things have you done to serve others?

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Stephen's Courage (Acts 7)

Week of October 13-18

Do you remember last week when we talked about the seven servants who were chosen to serve tables? Stephen was one of those men who was chosen to serve.

Stephen was a great man. What made him great? God tells us: Stephen was “a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5).

Stephen had studied God's word carefully. He knew the stories of the Old Testament by heart. He knew all about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He knew about Joseph and Moses and the Exodus. He knew about David and Solomon and the things that the prophets had written.

When Stephen had put all of these things together in his mind and he looked at Jesus, he knew that Jesus was the “Righteous One,” the one for whom all of Israel was looking, the Messiah, God's Anointed.

The Apostles chose Stephen to serve tables, but God chose Stephen to do mighty wonders: “And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.”

Believe it or not, some people weren't pleased with Stephen doing great signs and wonders. They wanted him to stop! So, “they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and they set up false witnesses who said, ‘This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us. And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.’ And the high priest said, ‘Are these things so?’” (Acts 6:12-7:1).

Stephen answered this question by preaching one of the greatest sermons ever recorded. At the end of the sermon, Stephen warned the people to not reject Jesus. Do you think the people listened to Stephen? No! They became enraged and rushed at him, but Stephen had courage. He stood firm on the truth of the good news of the gospel. Stephen's commitment to Jesus cost him his life. Do you think Jesus was pleased with Stephen's commitment to truth?! Yes! Jesus rewards those who lose their lives for His sake!

2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Questions: What is the hardest thing that you have ever done? Did God help you do it?

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Paul's Conversion (Acts 9)

Week of October 20-25

Imagine that you have spent the first thirty years of your life playing one sport. You know all the rules. You have all the skills. You know all the coaches and referees and other players. Everyone thinks that you are the greatest of all time at that sport; but then you stop playing that sport and begin to play a different sport. Everyone is confused. Why would you stop the thing you were so good at to do something else? Why would you turn your back on everything that made you famous? Why would you disappoint your fans?

The Apostle Paul's story is something like this, except way more dramatic. The Apostle Paul spent the first thirty or so years of his life trying to do everything right. He memorized God's laws. He studied the Bible with the greatest teachers of his time. He became a Pharisee. Of himself, Paul said, "And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers" (Galatians 1:14).

Paul was doing everything right according to "the traditions of his fathers," but was Paul doing everything right according to God?

What is the number one thing that God wants us to do? Jesus tells us, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." Who did God send? God sent His Son, Jesus. The number one thing that God wants us to do is believe in Jesus. This means that God wants us to put 100% of our faith in Jesus. If we do this, everything else in life will fall into place. However, this thing—putting 100% of our faith in Jesus—was incredibly difficult for Paul to do. Why? Because Paul had spent most of his life putting his faith in his ability to advance in "the traditions of his fathers."

Then, one day, Paul met the Lord Jesus. Do you remember what happened? Paul was on a mission to arrest men and women who belonged to "the Way" (who is the "The Way?"), "and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' And he said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.'" (Acts 9:3-5).

What happened to Paul when He met Jesus? Paul was changed. He switched from team against-Jesus to team Jesus. This was an incredibly painful process for Paul, but in losing everything for the sake of Jesus, Paul gained Christ. Did Paul think losing everything to gain Christ was worth it? Absolutely he did!

Psalm 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Questions: What happened to Paul when he met Jesus? How well do you know Jesus?

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!

Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10)

Week of October 27 – November 1

A lot happened in the first days, and months, and years after Jesus went back up to heaven! Jerusalem was abuzz with the news about Jesus' resurrection and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. Jewish people all over the land of Israel were believing in Jesus. But this was just the beginning! Jesus had said to his disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Cornelius was not a Jewish man, but he feared God, prayed continually, and was generous to the people. One day, "about the ninth hour of the day [Cornelius] saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, 'Cornelius.' And he stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' And he said to him, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter'" (Acts 10:3-5).

Why did God want Cornelius to spend time with Peter? God wanted Cornelius to spend time with Peter because Peter could tell Cornelius about Jesus. But this wasn't going to be easy! Jewish people believed that "it was unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation" (Acts 10:28), so how would God convince Peter to go to Cornelius' house?!

One day, as Peter was praying, God gave him a vision. In the vision, something like a sheet came down from heaven. In the sheet were all kinds of unclean animals. Then God told Peter to, "Kill and eat." "But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean'" (Acts 10:14-15). This happened three times and then the vision ended.

At that time, the men from Cornelius came and asked Peter to come with them to visit Cornelius. Then Peter realized what the vision meant. It meant that God wanted him to go and tell Cornelius about Jesus! So, Peter went to Cornelius' house and told Cornelius and his family about Jesus, and do you know what happened? Cornelius and his family believed in Jesus and received the Holy Spirit!

Today, it is the job of everyone who believes in Jesus to tell the world about Him! Do you believe in Jesus?!

Psalm 47:7

God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

Questions: Do you know anyone who doesn't know Jesus? Will you tell them about Jesus?

Please remember to pray for your team and their families!