



CENTRAL SPORTS

Soccer

*Central Sports exists to promote the
discovery of Jesus through sports.*

Team Name: _____

Practice Day/Time: _____

Table of Contents

Central Sports	2
Sports Offered.....	2
Practice/Game Day Cancellation Policy.....	2
Important Dates Table	2
Coaches: Requirements	3
Application & Background Check	3
Ministry Safe	3
Coaches: Expectations	3
Keys to Coaching	3
Central Sports Coaches’ Dress Code.....	4
Coaches: Responsibilities	4
Attend Coaches’ Training	4
Contact Your Team	4
Attend ‘Meet the Team’	4
Conduct Practices.....	5
Coach Games.....	5
Award End-of-Year Awards	5
Soccer at Central	6
Game Format	6
Field of Play	6
Number of Players.....	7
The Ball and Game Duration	8
Fouls	9
Restarts and Substitutions	10
Practice.....	11
Practice Breakdown.....	11
Examples	12
Weekly Devotions	14

CENTRAL SPORTS

Central Sports focuses on these three things: fun, growth, and respect.

- **Fun-** We want the kids, parents, and you, the coach, to have fun. We want learning about Jesus to be fun. He is the creator of fun, so why wouldn't we have fun learning about Him?
- **Growth** - We want kids to be better players at the end of the season than they were at the beginning of the year. We want the players', coaches', and parents' relationship with Jesus to be deeper than it was when the season started. If they don't know Jesus, we want them to get to know Him.
- **Respect-** We want players and coaches to play to win, but at the same time not win at all costs. We want players and coaches to respect the opponent. We want you to have the same reaction in winning and in losing. Jesus taught us to love others, so we need to love the other team.

Sports Offered

January-February: Basketball, Cheerleading

March-May: Soccer

August- November: Flag Football, Volleyball

Practice/Game Cancellation Policy

Basketball does not normally have weather-related cancellations. However, if for some reason a cancellation does occur, emails will be sent out to the league, and cancellation notices will be posted to the Central Basketball Facebook page

IMPORTANT DATES

Meet the Team: _____

First Week of practice: _____

First Game: _____

Last Game: _____

Deadline to request award medals: _____

COACHES: REQUIREMENTS

Application & Background Check

All coaches must complete an application and background check. This includes assistant coaches and fill-in coaches. If you know you will miss a game and need a fill-in coach for a game, please make sure they have completed and turned in the appropriate paperwork.

Ministry Safe

As a coach, you MUST complete the Ministry Safe Sexual Assault Awareness Training. This is to protect the players, you as the coach and Central Sports. There are videos and a test after the training. The entire training should take no longer than 45 minutes. This training certification lasts 2 years. If you have taken the Ministry Safe Training at another church, please send your certification to familyactivities@centralbcs.org. If your training expires during the middle of the season, you will be asked to complete a new training prior to the start of the season. We thank you for taking every step possible to protect the kids that we love.

COACHES: EXPECTATIONS

We want you to grow in the knowledge, skills, and passion for stewarding players to Christ through the sport of basketball. When you coach, we want you to instill character in the players. This only comes from a relationship with Jesus and a constant renewing of your mind with the things of Him. (Rom. 12:2)

Coaching can have more purpose than teaching players how to serve or pass. As a coach, you can teach your players about the truths of God: that He loves us and wants to know us, along with the sport. We want to come alongside and equip you to share Jesus with your players.

As a coach, we want you to be a positive role model – encourage and respect your players and the game by communicating clearly and consistently, listening to your players, and knowing the sport.

Keys to Coaching

- Teach the game through drills – The ability to execute proper drills enhances skill level and improves athletic foundations. Your practices should utilize drills that enhance skill development.
- Teach the rules of the sport – For the players to grow in the sport, they must understand and apply the rules of the game. Take time to explain rules and why they are important.
- Instill sportsmanship with a competitive spirit – In sports, winning and losing are part of the game, just as it is for life. Knowing how to handle both in a positive way builds character in young athletes. Teach your players to play hard and play to win, but also teach them to put others before themselves with a positive attitude and sportsmanship.
- Communicate effectively – In order to teach the rules, explain drills, and teach sportsmanship, you have to be an effective communicator. Likewise, good communication and organization are crucial in keeping parents informed throughout the season. This includes keeping them up to date on practice and game times and having a plan in place for each and every practice.

Central Sports Coaches' Dress Code

- Central Sports Coach shirt or sleeved t-shirt
 - NO tank tops, muscle shirts, crop tops, or spaghetti straps
- Athletic or walking shorts
 - NO yoga pants, compression pants, compression shorts, leggings, jeggings, etc., unless covered by shorts.
- Tennis/athletic shoes
 - Come dressed for practice the way you want the kids dressed for practice; set the standard and example.

COACHES: RESPONSIBILITIES

Attend Coaches' Training

- Attend training
- Pick-up shirt, roster, and handbook

Contact Your Team

- Introduce yourself (and your assistant coaches if applicable)
- Inform parents of:
 - Team name & age division (for the parents with multiple children playing)
 - Practice nights (day of week, time)
 - Meet the Team details
 - First Practice date
 - First Game date
 - Dress code for practice & games
 - Practice atmosphere
 - Gameday atmosphere

We encourage you to request a confirmation so you know your parents receive the information.

Attend 'Meet the Team'

Location: Out on the fields if not raining, FLC if inclement weather

Kindergarten & Under Soccer – 6:00-6:20 pm

1-3rd grade Soccer – 6:30-6:50 pm

4-6th grade Soccer – 7:00-7:20 pm

- Introduce yourself
- Tell them when the first practice is (day of week, time)
- Tell them where the first practice is (all practices will be the same)
- Tell them what to bring to practice; learning attitude, water bottle
- Ask for a team parent to handle snack sign-up (if wanted/needed)
- Ask for help coaching if wanted/needed (must fill out paperwork/Ministry Safe training)
- Let them know when/if you will be out
- Hand out team rosters

IF YOU AND YOUR ASSISTANT COACH WILL NOT BE AT 'MEET THE TEAM', PLEASE LET YOUR TEAM KNOW THAT THEY DON'T NEED TO ATTEND. PLEASE LET US KNOW AS WELL!

Conduct Practices

- Be prepared for your practices! Conduct drills that teach skills.
- Be prepared for devotions! The players will get out of it what you put into it.
- Use positive reinforcement only; no punishment! Please no burpees, push-ups, etc.

Coach Games

- Be involved! Engage with players from the bench.
- Be an encourager! Always have uplifting words for your players. Praise them after the game.
- **Do not argue with the refs. Remember that they are volunteers! Please set a good example for your players.**

Award End-of-Year Medals

End-of-the-Year Medals are given after the last game of the season. This highlights your player's strength; it is not a "most improved, MVP, or best player" award. Multiple players can receive the same award. You will email Central Sports with a list of the awards you need. There are 10 award categories:

- Offense, Defense, Passing, Shooting, Hustle,
Sportsmanship, Leadership, Character, Effort, Encourager

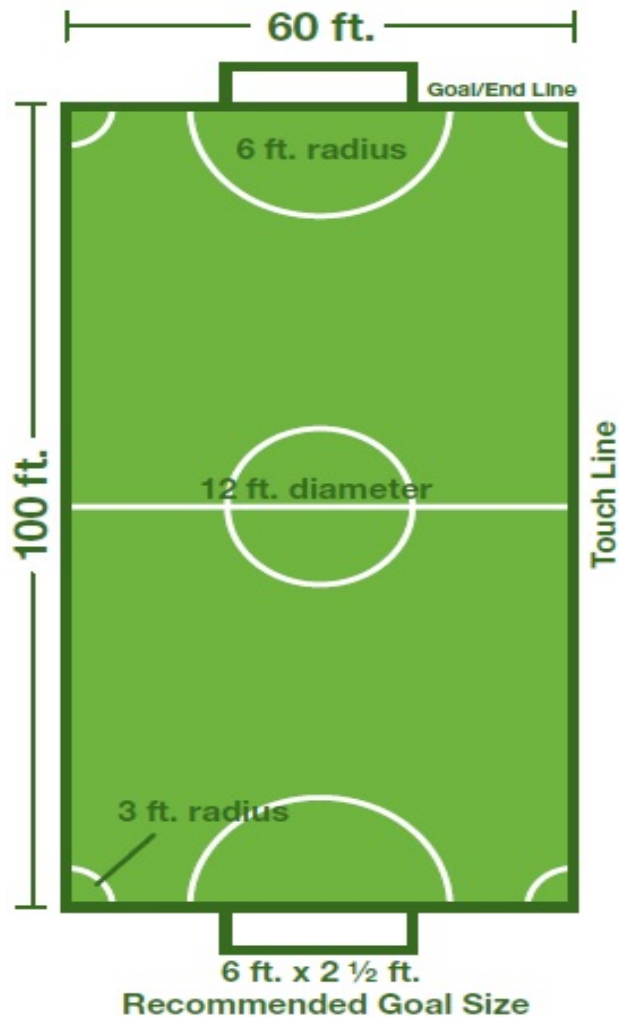
You will receive a reminder from Central Sports to provide your medal count & categories.

Please be aware: if you miss the deadline, your team will receive blank medals.

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER

- **Game Format**
 - Referees will call and explain all violations.
 - The coaches should determine which team will start the game. The other team will start the second half.
 - Games consist of two 18-minute halves, one minute for substitutions, and a brief halftime.
 - The game clock is maintained by the referee and will only stop every 6 minutes for the predetermined substitutions.
 - Teams will switch goals at halftime (except in the Kindergarten division).
 - No division standings are maintained in any division.
 - Coaches are allowed to walk the sidelines to support players. Coaches are on the field with k-3rd players to help coach during games.
 - All coaches will adhere to the substitution rules
 - No yellow cards or red cards are given/used
 - There is no extended time in Central Sports Soccer.
- **Field of Play**
 - Field Markings
 - The field of play should be marked with two touchlines, two goal lines, and divided into two equal sections by the midfield line and a center circle.
 - Goal Area
 - Each goal area will be an arc (semi-circle) directly in front of each goal for Kinder – 3rd grade divisions.
 - Penalty Area
 - There will be no penalty area marked off.
 - Flag Posts
 - Placed at each of the four corners of the field. A yellow cone will make the corner kick area
 - Corner Arc
 - Corner arcs will be a quarter circle with a radius of 3'

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER (CONT'D)



- **Number of Players**

- Team Format
 - 6v6 for kindergarten division
 - 7v7 for 1st – 3rd grade
 - 8v8 for 4-6th grade
- No Goalkeeper
 - Because of the goal arc and the size of the goal, there is no need for a goalkeeper. This facet of the format is meant to give all players an active role as field players. Players WILL not be positioned in front of the goal arc to act as a goalkeeper and not be an active part of the game. As a compromise, coaches may position a player around midfield to play as a defender. There is a goalkeeper in the oldest division.

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER

- **The Ball and Game Duration**

- The Ball

- Kindergarten and under

- Size 3

- 1st – 3rd grade

- Size 4

- 4th grade and Up

- Size 5

- Game Duration

- Periods of play

- The game will consist of two 18-minute halves with each half being divided into three 6-minute periods

- Game Clock

- A referee will maintain the game clock.

- A kick-off begins each half and after a goal has been scored. Opposing players must remain outside the center circle or 4 yards away until the ball has been put in play.
- The team in possession of the ball at the end of the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th six-minute period retains possession of the ball. The team with possession of the ball will start the next six-minute period with a throw-in at the closest point on the sideline when play was stopped. The team that did not start the game with the kick-off will begin the second half of the game with a kick-off.

- **Shooting Arc**

- There is no ball contact allowed within the shooting arc. If the ball comes to a stop within the arc, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team regardless of who touched the ball last.

- If the ball has broken the plane of the shooting arc and a defensive player touches the ball, but the referee determines that the ball would NOT have gone in the goal, a corner kick is awarded to the attacking team.

- If the attacking player touches the ball inside the arc, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team.

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER (CONT'D)

- Fouls will result in either an indirect or a direct kick. Opposing players must be 5 yards away from the ball.
 - Indirect Kick:
 - A player other than the kicker must touch the ball before a goal can be scored.
 - Awarded to the opposing team if one of these fouls is committed:
 - Dangerous Play
 - Obstructing an opponent
 - Delay of Game
 - Direct Kick:
 - The kicker may score directly without another player touching the ball.
 - Awarded to the opposing team if one of these fouls is committed:
 - Handling the ball
 - Kicking an opponent
 - Hitting an opponent
 - Pushing an opponent
 - Tripping an opponent
 - Holding an opponent
 - Any unsportsmanlike conduct
 - Slide tackling or any contact with the ball while the player is on the ground.
- A goal is awarded for deliberate handling/kicking of the ball inside the goal arc that denies the opposing team a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity.
- A goal is not scored if a player kicks or throws the ball into his or her own goal. A corner kick is awarded for the opposing team. This removes the possibility of a player scoring for the other team and prevents further embarrassing a player for making this mistake.
- A goal may only be scored from a player's offensive end of the field. This prohibits a player from scoring a goal on a kick-off or from a goal kick.
- Offside is not called because of the field size and the number of players on the field.
- Slide Tackling is not allowed.
- Players who commit two fouls resulting in direct kicks, excluding handballs, in the same 6-minute segment must sit out the remainder of that segment.

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER (CONT'D)

- Re-Starts
 - Out of bounds
 - The entire ball must go out of bounds to be out of play. If part of the ball is still touching the line, play continues uninterrupted.
 - Corner Kicks
 - When the ball passes over the goal line after being last touched by the defensive team. The ball is placed inside the corner arc on the side of the field where it went out of bounds.
 - Goal Kicks
 - When the ball passes over the goal line after being last touched by the attacking team or if the ball comes to a stop within the goal arc. The ball is placed on the goal line, 5 yards from the goal arc on the side of the field where it went out of bounds
 - Throw-ins
 - When the ball passes over the sidelines, the team to touch it last loses possession and the opposing team takes a throw-in.

- Substitutions
 - This substitution system is designed to provide every player an equal opportunity for improvement.
 - The substitution system ensures that:
 - Every child will play at least half of the game.
 - No child will sit out more than six minutes at a time.
 - The starting lineup shifts down one player every game allowing every child to be in the starting lineup.
 - Coaches are not open to making unfair substitutions.
 - Coaches are free from monitoring playing time for each player.
 - Playing time for all players is virtually even over the course of the season.

Practice

- Practice nights: Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday
- Practice times: 5:30-6:30 pm or 6:30-7:30 pm
- Soccer fields are shared for practices.
- Devotions are at the midway point of your practice. Keep an eye on the time.
- Positive reinforcement only; no punishments such as burpees, push-ups, etc.

PRACTICE BREAKDOWN

- *Pre-Practice Huddle (3-5 minutes)* – Cover specific rules and the basics of the game. Teach and review proper techniques for each skill needed for practice drills.
- *Warm-up Activity (3-5 minutes)* – Provide players the opportunity to practice individually and slowly warm up their muscles.
- *Practice skills through drills (20 minutes)* – Use drills that reinforce skill development. Focus on only one to two skills per practice.
- *Mid-practice huddle (5-7 minutes)* – Share the practice-specific devotion for each week. An intern will come in and announce devotion time at the mid-point of practice.
- *Scrimmage or games that teach (20 minutes)* – Guide players in using the skills they are learning through scrimmaging.
- *Post-practice huddle (5 minutes)* – Communicate game times, picture times, etc. After practice is a great time to engage in conversation with parents.

Game Day:

Prior to Game

- Set your lineup
 - Equal start time/playtime for every player
- Find out which bench is yours
- Warm-up until ref signals 'balls in'

During Game

- Six 6 minute quarters (no clock stoppages) with a break for substitutions
- Teams will switch sides at halftime

After the Game

- Line up and shake hands (high-fives)
- Move your team off the field of play to meet
- Pass out team snack
- Positively congratulate/critique your team

EXAMPLES

Example Intro/Meet the Team Email:

Howdy parents!

We are so excited to have your child on the {TEAM NAME} soccer team at Central Sports! Our heart is to teach these kids fundamental soccer skills, guide them in practicing good sportsmanship, and deepen their understanding of God's perfect love for them. We are joyfully praying over your children and this season together!

***Meet the team is {DAY OF WEEK} from {TIME}-{TIME} at either the Family Life Center or the fields, depending on weather. Our first practice is on {DAY OF WEEK}, {DATE}.**

*It is IMPERATIVE that your kids be ON TIME to all practices and games. We only have 1 hour a week to practice so every minute counts!

*Your children will need a good pair of athletic shoes/cleats for the season, along with shin guards. Athletic shorts must be worn over any tights/leggings. Shirts should cover the midriff.

*Games will begin Saturday, {DATE}. We will send you the game schedule as soon as it is released.

{Indicate how you will communicate throughout the season, whether that is groupme, group texts, emails, etc.)

*Please let us know if you have any questions. Go **{Team Name}!**

Example Weekly Team Email:

Central Sports Soccer – Galaxy, Week of 5/3

PRACTICE

Thursday, May 6th, 5:30 PM

Please have players ready to go at 5:30.

Make sure they have a water bottle, have used the restroom and are wearing Cleats/tennis shoes/shin guards.

GAME

Saturday May 8th, 10:00 AM

Arrive by 9:45 – **If you will not make the game please let me know ASAP**

Visit the restroom prior to the game. Bring a water bottle!

****SNACKS** - (Parent Name)**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

*****UPCOMING*****

PRACTICE

Thursday, May 13th, 5:30

PICTURES

Saturday, May 15th, 11:20

This is an example of a weekly communication sent out on Sunday or Monday.

The UPCOMING events listed out the whole season (practice, games, pictures, snacks, etc).

These examples are provided to assist you with wording. You do not need to copy them word for word.

Make sure to adjust dates, time, and team names!

Make sure that you include the team name & age division in the Subject Line!

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

- Be prepared each week for devotional. Know the scripture; don't just read it off the paper. Bring your Bible.
- Make the devotional your own; personalize it. Talk about situations your players will understand. Relate it to the game, school, home life, etc.
- Ask for questions! If you don't know the answer, tell them you will get back to them with an answer and do it!
- Remember: YOU may be the only 'Jesus' they see!

Week 1: Getting to Know You

At the halftime of practice – play **The Name Game**.

- 1) Have each player give their name and tell you the animal they would most like to be and why.
- 2) You, the coach, now try to go around and name each of the players and the animal they want to be like – this may be challenging.
- 3) Have each player go around and try to name all the players with the animal.

During a water break, find out from your players:

- Where they go to school
- Whether they have brothers and sisters
- What they like to do in their free time

Tell them a snippet of your story – you will do more of this throughout the season. This would include:

- Where you grew up
- Where you went to school
- Whether you have brothers and sisters
- What you liked to do in your free time when you were their age

Week 2 – Gospel

Genesis 3

John 3:16

1 Corinthians 15: 55-57

John 11: 25-26

How many of you have never ever messed up in your life? You've gotten a 100 on every test/homework, you always clean your room right when your parents ask you to, you've never lied about anything? Yeah, we've all messed up at some point or another.

Today we are going to talk about the first people to EVER mess up, Adam and Eve. Their story can be found in Genesis 3. Does anyone know anything about Adam and Eve? (Wait for responses). They were created by God and put in the garden of Eden and got to walk and talk with God on a regular basis. Everything was perfect for them, all they had to do was not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. That was it. They could eat from any other tree/bush in the garden, but one day the devil spoke to Eve and told her that she would not surely die if she ate from the tree. He told her that she would be like God and convinced her to eat the fruit. So, Eve ate it and then gave some to Adam to eat and they disobeyed God. This was when sin entered the world. Sin is anything that we do that disobeys God and because of sin, God had to cast Adam and Eve out of the garden because he could not be with them anymore. God cannot be in the presence of sin.

Many years went by, and God still looked after his people, but the world was evil because of sin. However, at just the right time, God sent His son, Jesus, to come and live a perfect life that we never could, die on a cross, and rise 3 days later. Does anyone know the verse John 3:16? (wait for response; if no one knows it, please read it to them). When Jesus died and rose again, he took on all of the sins of every person in the world that had ever lived and will ever live. He took on each of our sin and buried it in the grave and then rose again to show that he had conquered our sin and to show that death had no hold on us anymore. Read 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

That's not the end of the story though. Jesus will come back and judge the world based on if we are followers of him or not. Those who are Christians will get to spend forever in Heaven with God. Those who are not will be eternally separated from God, and that is a tragic thing to happen. We want everyone to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior because Jesus wants what's best for you. Read John 11:25-26

If you have never asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life, I'd love to talk to you more about it, and if you have THAT IS AWESOME!

Let's pray.

Week 3 – “Rejoice!”

Romans 5:3-4

Philippians 4:4

Can anybody tell me what we talked about last week? (Wait for answers) Right! We talked about the Gospel of Jesus and how he came and died for us so that we could have a relationship with him! This season we’re going to be focused on some memory verses. They’re kinda long, but I believe in y’all to get it. It’s Romans 5:3-4 “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

We’re going to break down this verse bit by bit as we go through the weeks. So, the first part is, “Not only that, but we rejoice” Does anyone know what rejoicing is? (Wait for responses) Rejoicing is feeling or showing great joy or happiness! We’re excited about who God is, and to get to serve Him in all kinds of circumstances. What are some things that you rejoice about? (Wait for responses) Paul is writing to the Romans and telling them that they are to rejoice in their sufferings or their hard times! That’s weird, right? As we go through this season, we’re going to learn more and more about why Paul is saying that we’re supposed to rejoice in God at all times. Philippians 4:4 says, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Let’s say our memory verse together! (I encourage you to come up with motions, do silly voices, do it fast, do it slowly, repetition and association are powerful learning tools) Romans 5:3-4. “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

Week 4 – “Tough Times”

Romans 5:3-4

Acts 16:25

Can anybody tell me what we talked about last week? (Wait for responses, confirm if correct) We talked about rejoicing at all times! Does anybody remember our memory verse? Let’s say it together. Romans 5:3-4, “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

Last week we talked about rejoicing even in the tough times, but why would Paul tell us to rejoice in our sufferings? Who has ever hurt their arm and said “I am happy that this happened!” No one, right? Paul is saying rejoice in our sufferings because they are suffering for the sake of Jesus!

In Acts 16, we read about Paul and Silas after they have just healed a girl of being possessed by a demon in Jesus’ name. Some men were angry that they had healed the girl and attacked Paul and Silas with rods! After they had been severely beaten they were thrown in prison. Can you imagine if you were Paul and Silas? If you were healing people and telling them about Jesus and people attacked you for it? Would you be mad at God? Maybe. But this isn’t how Paul and Silas reacted. Acts 16:25 says, “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

They were singing to God! They were still rejoicing in God even after all they had been through. Sometimes it’s hard to follow what God says, but we get to rejoice that we have a God that loves us so much that He is always with us even in our dark times.

Let’s say our memory verse again! Romans 5:3-4, “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

Let’s pray.

Week 5 – “Suffering for a reason”

Romans 5:3-4

John 16:33

What did we talk about last week? (Wait for answers) We talked about Paul and Silas rejoicing even while they were in prison. Let’s say our memory verse together. Romans 5:3-4, “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

So, we’ve talked about rejoicing in our sufferings, so the next part is that our suffering produces endurance. Can anyone tell me why we practice even when you’re tired? (Wait for answers) It’s so that you can build endurance. Endurance is the ability to withstand something for a longer period of time. It isn’t easy at the time, but afterward, you will be better off because of it. When it’s time for the game and you’re tired, you can push through and have the energy to keep playing hard.

The exact same thing happens in our faith. Jesus tells us in John 16:33, “In this life you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Jesus tells us that we will have trouble in this life, but we must lean on God when we go through hard times. It’s not always easy, but that’s why we rely on His strength all the time.

When we go through hard times, let’s remember our memory verse and praise God for giving us opportunities to grow! Romans 5:3-4, “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

Let’s pray.

Week 6 – “Endurance produces character”

Romans 5:3-4

1 Samuel 24:1-13

Does anyone have our memory verse memorized? Let’s all try to say it together! “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

This week we’re talking about the next part of our memory verse which talks about endurance produces character! Last week we talked about how we can withstand hard times because of God’s strength and the fact that we know that Jesus has overcome the world! This week we’re talking about what our endurance produces! Does anyone know what character means? (Wait for answers) Character is defined as moral excellence and firmness.

In the Bible, we’re told about a man named David who was a man of character. It was said that David was a man after God’s own heart. However, David went through his share of troubled times. He was being hunted down by King Saul because God had said that David would be the next king. **Read 1 Samuel 24:1-13**

David was a man of integrity. Even after he had been hunted by King Saul, he still understood that King Saul was chosen by God to be king, and it wasn’t David’s time yet. He understood that he could trust in God’s plan even when things were hard. Let’s pray that God continues to produce character in our lives.

Let’s pray.

Week 7 – “Character produces hope”

Romans 5:3-4

Hebrews 11:1

Luke 2:25-32

What did we talk about last week? (Wait for answers, confirm if correct) We talked about David and King Saul and how David chose not to attack Saul even when it would’ve been easier to do so. He was a man of character who trusted in God!

This week we’re going to talk about the next part of our memory verse. Does anyone have it memorized all the way? I know it’s long, but I believe in y’all! (Challenge them to say it. Even if they can’t get all the way through. Praise them for trying and getting some of it) Let’s all say it together! Romans 5:3-4 “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope.”

This week we’re talking about the fact that character produces hope. Who knows what hope is? Hope is the confident expectation that God is going to do what He says He would do. Think back in all we’ve talked about. After having gone through tough times and rejoicing in it, building endurance because we trusted God, building character because we make a habit out of trusting God, and then we have hope that God will do what He says because He has shown it to us in the past!

The story of Simeon is a great one of hope. Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. (Luke 2:25-32) We don’t know how long it was in between God telling Simeon that he would see Jesus and he actually got to see Jesus, but it could’ve been a substantial amount of time, However, when he did see Jesus he sang praises to God and worshipped Him! Simeon was confidently expectant that what God had said would come true.

Let’s pray.

Week 8 – “Hope does not put us to shame”

Romans 5:3-4

John 14:2-7

Who can tell me what we talked about this past week? (Wait for answers) We talked about Simeon, and how he expected God to do what He said He was gonna do. We have gone through our entire memory verse. Does anybody know the whole thing? Romans 5:3-4 “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope.”

This week we’re talking about what the next verse says. “And hope does not put us to shame because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” We do not have to be ashamed of the hope that we have in Jesus Christ because He is going to do what He says He’s going to do. Jesus tells us in John 14:2-7 that He is going to prepare a place for us in heaven for those of us who have relationships with him! (Read John 14:2-7)

The only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ. He loves us and died on a cross for us because he loved us so much. We get to have hope in a God and a Savior who has already defeated death if we trust in Him and obey what He tells us to do! How can we obey God this week?

Let’s pray.

Week 9 – “God is with me”

Romans 5:3-4

John 3:16

Romans 3:23

Who knows what we talked about last week? (Wait for answers) We talked about how Jesus goes and prepares a place for us! We also talked about how our hope in God doesn't put us to shame. Everyone should have the memory verse memorized by now. Let's all say it together. Romans 5:3-4 “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope.” And like we talked about last week, and hope does not put us to shame!

John 3:16 tells us exactly what God did for us! “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” Jesus had to come to earth to live the perfect life because we couldn't. We mess up all the time because we're sinners. Romans 3:23 tells us that “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” And Romans 6:23 tells us “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” So what we earned for our sin is death and it separates us from God, so Jesus had to come so that we could have a relationship with God. Like we talked about last week, Jesus is the only way to God. He had to come and die on a cross, and then rise up 3 days later to defeat everything we've ever done wrong.

Jesus defeated sin and death for us so that we could have a relationship with God. Now, all we have to do is accept the gift that is freely offered to us. If you have never done that before and would like to let's pray. If you've done it before, celebrate those who are doing it for the first time!

Pray.

(If you have any who do accept Jesus, we'd love to get them plugged in or to inform their church that there has been a decision made. Please let Tyler know.)