Rocky Mountain Youth Basketball & Cheer- Coach Devotionals

"Play for Jesus" – 8-Week Devotional Script for Youth Coaches

WEEK 1 – IDENTITY

Focus Word: *Identity*

Verse: Genesis 1:27 – "God created mankind in His own image."

Coach Talk:

Before we even take the floor, God already says who we are. We're His! You're not just a player, a kid, or someone who scores points — you're made in God's image. That means you reflect who He is — His love, His creativity, His goodness.

Ask the Team:

- What do you think it means to be made in God's image?
- How can remembering that change how we treat others on the court?

Takeaway Chant:

"I'm made by God, for God!"

WEEK 2 – EFFORT

Focus Word: Effort

Verse: Colossians 3:23 – "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

Coach Talk:

God cares about how you play — not just if you win or lose. Every time you give your best effort, you're giving it to God. Even in drills or when you're tired, give your best because He deserves it.

Ask the Team:

- What's one way you can show effort even when it's tough?
- Who do you play for?

Takeaway Chant:

"I play hard for God!"

WEEK 3 – TEAMWORK

Focus Word: Teamwork

Story: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 – The Body of Christ

Coach Talk:

A team only works when everyone plays their part. The Bible says we're all part of one body like a team! Some of us pass, some perform, some encourage. When we help each other, we honor God and make our team stronger.

Ask the Team:

- What happens if a team only cares about one player?
- How can you be a good teammate this week?

Takeaway Chant:

"Together we're stronger!"

WEEK 4 – SELF-CONTROL

Focus Word: Self-Control

Verse: Proverbs 16:32 – "Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city."

Coach Talk:

When a ref or coach makes a call you don't like, what do you do? Real strength isn't yelling it's staying calm. Self-control shows maturity and respect. Jesus had perfect self-control — even when people were unfair to Him.

🤔 Ask the Team:

- What's hard about showing self-control in a game?
- How can you calm down when you're frustrated?

Takeaway Chant:

"Strong means self-controlled!"

WEEK 5 – COURAGE

Focus Word: Courage

Story: David and Goliath – 1 Samuel 17

Coach Talk:

David was smaller and younger than everyone, but he trusted God and stepped up. That's courage — doing the right thing even when you're scared. You can be brave when you try something new, give it our all, or stand up for someone.

Ask the Team:

- What's something that takes courage in basketball or cheer?
- When do you need courage in life?

Takeaway Chant:

WEEK 6 – HUMILITY

Focus Word: Humility

Verse: Philippians 2:3–4 – "Value others above yourselves."

⊕ Coach Talk:

The best teammates celebrate others. Humility isn't about putting yourself down — it's about lifting others up. When you pass the ball, encourage teammates, or congratulate someone, you're showing God's love in action.

Ask the Team:

- How can we show humility when we win?
- How can we show humility when we lose?

Takeaway Chant:

"I put others first!"

WEEK 7 – PERSEVERANCE

Focus Word: Perseverance

Verse: Hebrews 12:1 – "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Coach Talk:

Sometimes you'll stumble or run out of energy. But God calls us to keep going. The Bible says life is like a race — we don't quit when it's hard, because God is with us all the way.

Ask the Team:

- What's something hard you kept trying to do?
- How can you show perseverance this week?

Takeaway Chant:

WEEK 8 – PURPOSE

Focus Word: Purpose

Verse: Ephesians 2:10 – "We are God's masterpiece, created to do good things."

• Coach Talk:

God gave you gifts, talents, and a heart for others. Sports are one way you can show who He is. Your purpose is bigger than the game — it's to live for Jesus in everything you do.

Ask the Team:

- How can you use basketball or cheer to show Jesus to others?
- What does it mean to play for God's purpose?

Takeaway Chant:

"I play for God's purpose!"