

## A Note from the Author

Welcome to *Sports Devotions for Kids*! *Sports Devotions for Kids* was written specifically to enhance the events of your sports ministry by making Jesus Christ an active focus throughout the duration of your leagues' seasons. Reaching out to kids and their families through sports is a great way to provide exercise, involvement and fellowship via an activity that kids love. And it's a great way to introduce kids to Jesus Christ or help them grow in their current relationships with Him.

I hope *Sports Devotions for Kids* will enable your ministry to encourage your kids and their families to explore some great bible topics. Written from a sports perspective, these fun devotions are easy to read and easy to understand. Each lesson includes a one-page devotion and an activity page that can be copied and distributed to all of your coaches and players. It's often easy to get wrapped up in the competitive spirit and excitement of sports. *Sports Devotions for Kids* will make sure Jesus is there, too.

## Suggestions for Use

Each activity page is available in two formats. The first format includes a bottom portion that can be completed by filling in a player's name, school grade and team. These return slips can then be cut off and returned to a coach or league leader after an activity has been completed. The second format contains the same activity, but it does not include a return slip.

The use of return slips can be a great benefit to your sports ministry. Returning something that shows they've completed an activity engages the kids and really encourages them to dive into God's word at home. Here are some ways that you can use the *Sports Devotions for Kids* activity pages within your ministry:

- Give players an appliqué that can be ironed on to their team jerseys for each return slip they bring back. You can purchase small appliqués for most sports at various online sites.
- Drop returned slips into a big box. Then use the slips for a random drawing during your season's closing program.
- Award game points to each team based on the number of slips that are returned.

*Sports Devotions for Kids* lets you decide how many devotions to use. The first 9 lessons are labeled numerically in sequence. The last lesson is called a Wrap Up. Regardless of how many lessons you use during the season, you can use the Wrap Up lesson to end your season. Consider these other ideas for using *Sports Devotions for Kids* during your sports seasons:

- Distribute devotions and activity pages to each player following practices or games, and then encourage them to complete the activity and return their slips at the next practices or games.
- Distribute all of the devotions to each coach at the start of your season so your coaches can come to practices or games with prepared discussions.
- Encourage kids to complete each activity by allowing them to return their activity slips at any time during your season.
- When answers are important, they are hidden on the activity pages so you don't have to "correct" or "grade" them.
- *Sports Devotions for Kids* look great in color or black and white. Distribute color devotions if your budget allows. Otherwise, copy or print them in black and white. All activity pages are black and white.

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## On CD:

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