



**2023 Tallowood Kingdom Basketball
Devotional Series**

"Build a Boat"

*A Closer Look at the God's Great Plan for Noah and Us
(adapted from the song "Build a Boat" by Colton Dixon)*

KEY DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT FOR REFEREES AND COACHES

*Coaches and Referees teach others what most don't want to learn or do,
but ultimately help others become the person they always wanted to be.*

KEY VERSE

Jeremiah 29:11

*"For I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare, not for disaster,
to give you a future and hope."*

***NOTE: At the end of each devotional please choose a player to lead the group in prayer.
Please make these devotionals your own by providing personal experiences if time permits.***

WEEK 1: What's the Plan? (Jeremiah 29:11)

*"For I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future
and hope."*

Questions:

How many of you know the story of Noah and the Ark?

How many of you have ever been on a boat or built a boat?

Devotional:

The story of Noah begins with God being very unhappy with his creation – the human race. Everything they did was evil and God was sorry He had even created humans. Noah believed in

God and was very righteous. God made a plan to rid the world of evil, but would save Noah and his family from destruction and start the human race over with them.

GOD always has a plan that is good for those who believe and trust in Him. Just like God, your COACH has a plan on how he will train you to be a good basketball player.

END RESULT:

A good plan and trust in those creating the plan will ultimately give us a good future and hope!

WEEK 2: What Equipment is Needed? (Genesis 6:14)

“Make yourself an ark (boat) of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch, inside and out.”

Questions:

Do you know what pitch is?

Why is it important to have the right equipment to carry out a good plan?

Devotional:

God decided that he would flood the entire world to rid it of evil. To keep Noah and his family safe, God told Noah to build a large boat, or ark. God was very specific in the equipment, or materials Noah would need to make the ark correctly.

GOD knew exactly what Noah would need to make the ark and protect the family from the flood. Like God, COACHES know the best equipment needed for basketball. Depending on the age of basketball players, the goals are higher or lower, the balls are larger or smaller, and the courts are either full court or half court.

END RESULT:

The right equipment will always provide the best end results.

WEEK 3: HOW DO I BUILD THIS? (Genesis 6:15-16)

“This is how you are to make it; The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within 18 inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.”

Question:

How many basketball courts long was Noah’s Ark? (20 basketball courts long – that would be all the basketball courts Kingdom Basketball uses all lined up together)

Devotional:

Like the equipment for the ark, God was very specific on how to build the ark. It was very important that Noah and his family build it exactly like God told them. They were not only going to be saved, but they were also going to save the living creatures of the earth.

GOD told Noah and he tells us also exactly what we should do in His word, the Bible. God tells us what is the right and what is wrong. When we do what is wrong, the plan for our lives will not be good. Like God, COACHES, along with the REFEREES tell players exactly what to do and what not to do. The “rules” of basketball are needed so all players know exactly what to do. When a player does not follow the rules, referees will call “penalties” and stop the game.

END RESULT:

Following the rules and instructions will always reap God’s goodness and a basketball game played fairly.

WEEK 4: Don’t Give Up! (Genesis 7:5-6)

“And Noah did everything that the Lord commanded him. Noah was over 600 years old when the flood came and water covered the earth.”

Question:

Have you ever tried hard to accomplish something and given up on it?
How did that make you feel?

Devotional:

Many Christian scholars (people who study the Bible) believe that Noah started building the ark when he was 480 years old. The flood came when Noah was 600 years old. Therefore, it is estimated that it took Noah and his family 120 years to build the ark! That’s a very long time! People today don’t even live to be 120 years old! The amazing thing about the building of the ark is that Noah never gave up. Although it took a very long time, he followed the plan God gave him and completed the job and saved his family.

By now, YOU have been practicing and putting what you have learned into action on game day? It’s a lot of work, just like Noah, and sometimes it seems hard or takes a lot of time to get better at playing the game. Don’t give up, believe that all the work is worth it, because it is! Sometimes it takes time to see the plan come together. As long as you have the right equipment, follow the plan, you will succeed.

END RESULT:

Part of the plan may mean hard work, but making the effort to keep going leads to GREAT results!

Week 5: Game Day (Genesis 7:7-10)

"So Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives entered the ark because of the waters of the flood. From the clean animals, unclean animals, birds, and every creature that crawls on the ground, two of each, male and female, entered the ark with Noah, just as God had commanded him. Seven days later the waters of the flood came on the earth."

Question:

What has been your favorite part of game day?

What has been your least favorite part of game day?

When it was time for Noah and his family to board the ark, God instructed them how to collect the animals and when to close the massive door to the boat. Noah continued to follow God's plan and was fully prepared when the flood waters began to rise.

GOD prepared Noah and his family for the flood by providing a plan, equipment and specific instructions. Much like God, COACHES do the same for players to prepare them for game day. With practice, training and the coach knowing what each player does well, the team is ready for the game.

END RESULT:

God has a game plan for our lives, follow His plan and His instruction as you continue to take steps into your future!

Week 6: Crowd Control (Luke 17:27)

"People went on eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day Noah boarded the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."

Question:

Have you ever been scared or felt alone, even when you know you are doing it right and fully prepared?

Devotional:

Many of the people living around Noah might have ridiculed him for believing in a flood and building such a huge boat. They were not following God plan, but instead, ignoring God and making the world an evil place. Once the flood waters began to rise, many

panicked and pleaded with Noah to open the ark door. God kept Noah and his family safe and did not allow others to jeopardize their safety.

Game day can be very overwhelming. There are lots of people, a new team to play, maybe even anxiety about if the coaches plan will prevail. Don't allow the actions of others or a new situation cause you to doubt yourself, your teammates or coach. Like Noah, you are not alone and can put your trust in the plan.

END RESULT:

God is always there for you and will protect and guide you.

Week 7: Trust in the Team to the End (Genesis 7:24; 8:10-12; 15-17)

"And the waters surged on the earth 150 days."

"So Noah waited seven more days and sent out the dove from the ark again. When the dove came to him at evening, there was a plucked olive leaf in her beak. So Noah knew that the water on the earth's surface had gone down. After he had waited another seven days, he sent out the dove, but she did not return to him again."

"Then God spoke to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. Bring out all the living creatures^[a] that are with you—birds, livestock, those that crawl on the ground—and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

Questions:

Do you believe God has a plan for you, and it's a good plan?

Do you feel like you can always trust God?

Devotional:

Noah and his family were on the boat floating in flood waters for 150 days. He trusted God throughout the entire boat building experience and it saved his life and the lives of his family. Noah's family began the population of the earth over again. They had a very hopeful future because they followed God's plan.

You have been in Kingdom Basketball for approximately 75 days. Whether you are a beginner or experienced, you were presented with the coaches plan, given the supplies

and instructions on playing basketball. You practiced hard and prepared for game day by continuing to follow the coaches and referees guidance. Although it may have been hard at times to not give up, and maybe the actions of others can be intimidating, always remember, to trust in the plan, your coach and the team. Together, everyone is in it, to win it.

END RESULT:

God has a plan for you, to not harm you, but to bring you a promising future and hope. Just like in basketball, there is a plan. God will lead you and teach you, just trust in Him.