



2023 – 2024 Bantam, Midget & Juvenile Divisions

Week 1

Theme: TEAMWORK

What to say:

Hockey is a sport that we play with other people.

As you all know, there will always be times in your life when you have to work with others. Sometimes that's easier than others.

This season we will have to learn to work together as a team, and to remember that we all have a position on this team and we need each other.

When we play, we play *together*. When we win, we win *together*. When we lose, we lose *together*.

The Bible is God's message to us. In Ephesians 4:16 Paul said this: "From [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

In the church, everyone has a role to play. That's like hockey. Look around at each other. Honestly, look around at everyone else in the room. It might seem weird, but do it anyway! This is to remind you that everyone has a role to play. Everyone has work to do. Everyone matters. Let's get to know one another and have a great year.

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Remind us that everyone here matters. Make us into a great team. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 2

Theme: PRACTICE MAKES PROGRESS

What to say:

When we are learning something new (like 4 on 4 hockey instead of 5 on 5 hockey) we are going to have to be patient.

When learning any kind of new system, it's important to not get discouraged, even when it doesn't feel easy right away.

Sometimes you hear the expression that "practice makes perfect." Sometimes it does. But a more helpful way to think about it is that "practice makes *progress*."

Think *progression*, not perfection.

The Bible is God's message to us. In Romans 12:2, Paul writes this: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

This isn't a one-time thing. It's an ongoing process... and ongoing *progress* to grow to be more like Christ.

As we practice and learn new things, let's not get discouraged. The key is to stick with it and to look for *progress* -- in hockey and in life. In a few months we'll look back and already start to see how far we've come.

Practice makes progress.

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Help us to be people who persevere. It's easy to get frustrated. It's easy to give up. Help us to keep going and to see the progress you are working in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 3

Theme: CONTENTMENT

What to say:

The world around us is always giving us messages. One of them is "bigger, better, more!"

It's as if you can't be happy if you don't have the latest gadgets, more money than other people, and experiences that other people see and envy online.

Usually the people telling us these messages are trying to sell us something and make a profit off of us!

The Bible is God's message to us. Paul had been beaten up, shipwrecked and starving for food. Despite all that he said: "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances" (Philippians 4:11). That is an intense point of view.

We can have that same attitude, even when we feel jealous or envious of other people.

There's always going to be a better phone or a better pair of shoes, and there are always going to be people bragging about how amazing their life is.

Being content means being satisfied that God is providing for you no matter what. You may not always have everything you *want*, but he gives you everything you *need*. That's an important difference.

And God gives his people everything that matters most. In Christ we have peace with God, forgiveness, a life of purpose and meaning, and eternity. In him we are spiritual billionaires!

Let's be content -- on the ice, off the ice, and in life.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Thank you for being a Good Shepherd and providing us with everything we truly need. Help us to be content. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 4

Theme: Self-Image

What to say:

As you go through life a lot of people will tell you that everything is random—that the world is just here by chance and that humans are here by accident.

But that is simply not true. In Psalm 139:14 David realized: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made...” Each one of us *is made on purpose and for a purpose*. You are known personally by God. In Matthew 10:30 Jesus says that God even knows how many hairs are on your head!

Sometimes we hear things on social media or from our friends or family members that make us doubt that we have any real value or that we will ever measure up.

That’s why we need to remember that God has made each and every one of us. That’s what gives you value and worth. It all comes from him. He has also given you talents, strengths, brains and personalities to honour him and to bless others. With him you can have, as Jesus says in John 10:10 *an abundant life*.

There’s an old kids’ t-shirt that has been turned into a meme. “I know I’m somebody ‘cuz God don’t make no junk.”

You are somebody because God doesn’t make any junk, including you.

Maybe today one of you needed to hear that message.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Thank you for creating us in your image, and for making us on purpose and for a purpose. Help us to remember that every single day. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 5

Theme: Guard your heart

What to say:

There are many temptations that you will face in your life, especially as you become more and more independent, and as you have opportunities to try new things.

It's important to guard your heart. Proverbs 4:23 tells us why. "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

In the Bible, your "heart" is a way of speaking about what is at your very centre. It's that invisible place where you think and feel and make priorities. Everything we do "flows from it."

So when we open ourselves to greed, drugs, alcohol, pornography, envy, gambling, and other temptations, it will have a negative impact on the direction of our thoughts and life.

On the flip side of the coin, when we honour God, serve others, use the strengths God gave to us, study his Word, and build strong and healthy relationships, it will have a positive impact on the direction of our thoughts and life.

Make good choices, and guard your heart.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Help us to guard our hearts and to make good choices, so that we can live the abundant life you have planned for us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 6

Theme: NEGATIVE SELF-TALK

What to say:

Negative self-talk. What is it?

Negative self-talk is talking to yourself inside your head in a way that is overly negative. It's a quiet voice within that is always critical. 'I'm horrible, I always mess up, I'm no good...'

There are times when we get frustrated with ourselves. Maybe we miss a pass or take a bad shot. Maybe we let our team down. Maybe we feel like we let our friends or family down.

It's normal to feel low about something. But negative self-talk is another level. It goes too far. It says that you are always a failure and that you never do anything good.

But that's not true.

Yes, we all make mistakes. But in 1 Corinthians 15:57 Paul says: "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

In Christ you are victorious, loved, forgiven, made new, and given purpose, power and strength!

Don't let negative self-talk take over your mind. Shake it off. Keep going. And remember who you are in Christ.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Guard us from negative self-talk, that way of thinking that is overly negative and critical. Remind us about who we truly are in Christ. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 7

Theme: RULES

What to say:

Why do we have rules in hockey? [Take answers. Some might be: to make it fair, to keep people safe, etc.]

We have rules for hockey. But rules are everywhere. You probably also have rules for your family or home as well like 'Tell the truth,' 'Do your best,' or 'Do your chores.'

It's popular to look down on rules as if they are just there to control you or to keep you from fun. But this is too simplistic.

As a rule, you shouldn't run a red light in your truck. You also shouldn't swerve over the rumble strips or drink poison. All of this is for your own good!

God gives us rules as well. They are called commandments. According to Jesus, here is the most important commandment from Mark 12:30-31: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Hockey has rules. Life has commandments. God loves us and wants the best for us. It's how we are supposed to live as his people. When we do, everything is better. Our lives are faithful, they are meaningful, and we bless and support the people around us.

❖ ***Extra Practical Tip:** Talk to a friend or sibling about the greatest commandment and practical ways to live it out in your own life.*

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. By your Spirit, help us live by the great commandment to be people of faith, love, truth and honour. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 8

Theme: Forgiveness

What to say:

Forgiving someone who has hurt you is hard to do. But it can also be one of the most freeing experiences you can have.

Some of us grew up around farms. Sometimes there are electric fences that give off a small jolt when you touch them. This keeps the animals in.

Well, when you hold on to grudges, it is like always holding on to that electric fence. It sticks with you—and not in a good way!

Holding on to grudges keeps you focused on what happened, and sometimes you can't think about anything else. You can't move forward with what you need to do next in life.

Forgiveness isn't easy. But this reminder from the Bible helps. Colossians 3:13 says: "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." When we trust in Christ and ask for forgiveness, God gives it to us! Since we have been forgiven of serious sins, we can forgive others.

This week take some time to think about these questions:

- Is there someone I should I forgive?
- Am I holding on to a grudge which is holding me back?

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Life can be hard. Sometimes people hurt us. Sometimes we hurt others. Help us to experience your forgiveness, and to share it with others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 9

Theme: How To Treat Others

What to say:

Most of us want to be treated fairly. We want to be respected, and to be treated nicely.

Today's theme is very direct. You've heard it before, but it takes a lifetime to work on. It is Jesus' words from Matthew 7:12: "do to others what you would have them do to you..."

Do you want others to respect you? Then you should respect others.

Do you want people to take your ideas seriously? Then you should take their ideas seriously.

Do you want people to give you a second chance? Then you should give others a second chance.

You get the idea!

You can't control how others treat you. But you can control how you treat others. When you act in this way, you are honouring the Lord. He sees your faithfulness even if no one else does.

This week in your family or at school when you're not sure how to deal with a situation, ask yourself this: How would I want others to treat me in this situation?

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. It can be hard to know what to do in so many situations. But you give us wisdom. With your Holy Spirit, help us treat others as we would want them to treat us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 10

Theme: Anger

What to say:

Emotions are powerful. Fear, sadness, shame and happiness are all considered emotions.

So is anger.

Anger is powerful. All of us have probably been angry. Perhaps we get angry when someone we care about gets hurt, or when we see children starving, or when someone treats us unfairly. In these situations anger can motivate us to do something to improve someone's circumstances.

But if we're not careful, anger can go too far. In the Bible, James 1:19-20 says: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires."

Human anger is uncontrolled and selfish. It can make us want to lash out and hurt others.

If anger is something you struggle with, you're not alone. But remember those words from James 1.

- Take time to listen to others.
- Take time to think about what you are going to say.
- And ask God to help you respond in a way that honours him.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Anger is a powerful emotion. Help us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. By your Spirit, help us to live in a way that is right to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 11

Theme: Respect

The Dictionary gives this definition for respect:

- “a feeling of admiring someone or something that is good, valuable, important, etc. or is a feeling or understanding that someone or something is important, serious, etc., and should be treated in an appropriate way.”

We need to show respect to everyone. We need to value them and treat them fairly.

Our society does not do this very well. People are disrespected all the time. They are treated rudely, like garbage, or not taken seriously as someone made in God’s image.

But as followers of Christ, we want to be different. In 1 Peter 2:17 we read: “Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”

We respect each other. We respect our parents. We respect our coaches. We respect other people in the church. We respect God. We respect government leaders. We respect the referees. We respect the other team. We respect the Zamboni driver. You get the idea!

Let’s value everyone and treat them fairly.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. We like it when others respect us. Help us to respect everyone—not just people who we like. Help us value everyone and treat them fairly. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Week 12

Theme: Honouring Your Parents

What to say:

Let's be honest. Parents make mistakes. We often feel that they get things wrong, don't understand, or even annoy us.

That's why we need to remember that parents aren't perfect. And do you want to know what else? *None of us are perfect either!*

In the 10 Commandments, Exodus 20:12 says: "Honor your father and your mother..." This means we listen to them and respect them as they try to provide for us, protect us, care for us, and teach us. It's a very hard job to do! And it is much harder than it looks.

In our modern times, there are a lot of shows, videos, songs and messages which basically suggest that parents are dumb, bad, and to be ignored. Not only is this disrespectful ungodliness, but it is bad for you.

God has put people in our lives to help us. They are not perfect. But neither are any of us!

When you honour your parents you are also honouring God.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Thank you for putting people in our lives to help and guide us. Despite our society that often encourages us to disrespect others—including our parents—help us to be different. Help us to honour them, and you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 13

Theme: Pride

What to say:

Pride is a word that is used in different ways.

When someone says they are *proud* of their brother or sister, or proud to be a Canadian, that can be a good thing.

But there's *another* kind of pride. It is putting yourself first and thinking you are more important than everybody else. Because of that, it's no surprise that God teaches us that this kind of pride is a sin.

In Matthew 23:12 Jesus says this: "For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." In other words, if you always put yourself first and think you're better than others, God will correct you and bring you low. But if you remain humble, then God will give you honour.

Pride is like a disease that eats away at your life.

It keeps you from listening to and respecting others. It makes you selfish. It hurts your relationships. It even hurts your relationship with God. After all, you start to think that you know better than he does!

The only perfect person is Jesus. And we're not him!

Be a good teammate. Listen to God. Work for the good of others. This helps you have a meaningful life.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. If we're not careful, pride can take over our lives in a bad way. Keep us focused on you and keep us working for the well-being of others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 14

Theme: Deception

What to say:

We live in a world where certain expressions have become very popular. Examples are “do what makes you happy,” “you do you,” and “truth is relative.”

On the surface these can sound appealing; but they are all very misleading.

Happiness is good. But if making fun of others makes you happy, you should definitely *not* do that! If “you doing you” is means acting in a way that is selfish, you should definitely *not* do that. And if you believe that “truth is relative” that means you can justify believing or doing anything you want to do, even things which go against God’s teachings and which hurt others. That is also bad!

In John 8:44 Jesus calls the Devil the “father of lies.” He works in deception. The main way to guard against deception is to know and study the word of God. Jesus says that God’s word “is truth” (John 17:17).

Don’t be deceived. Read the Bible. Take the opportunity to study it and listen to Bible-based sermons. Talk to others about it. Follow its teachings. According to Jesus in Matthew 7:24, the truly wise person is the one who listens to his words and puts them into practice.

As you live your life in our modern culture, don’t be naïve. Measure everything against the truth of God’s eternal word.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Guard us from the “father of lies,” the Devil. Keep us rooted in your eternal truth. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Week 15

Topic: Hard Work

What to say:

Hard work goes a long way. In hockey if you want to win and get better you have to work hard. While at a job you need to work hard. Fooling around and constantly taking breaks will not go over well with the boss.

If you work hard it will set you apart from the rest of your co-workers. In hockey, it might also set you apart from some of your teammates. (But on this team, we hope that *everyone* works hard!)

In biblical times if you didn't work hard your family could starve. If you didn't bring in enough food from the harvest it was a serious threat to the people you cared about.

There is such a thing as *spiritual* laziness. It is not taking the Bible seriously, not praying consistently, skipping church or youth group whenever you want, and not making a point to serve or help others.

The opposite of this is *zeal*. It means spiritual passion. In Romans 12:11 Paul says: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

Let's all work hard—at hockey, at school, at our jobs (when we have them), and at our faith.

It will set you apart. And you will honour God.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Steer us away from laziness. Give us a spirit of hard work and zeal in all areas of our life. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 16

Theme: Topic: Fear

What to say:

Fear.

A lot happens in life. We can become fearful for a bunch of different reasons.

Sometimes it is because we think something bad is going to happen to us. Or maybe things seem beyond our control and we're not sure what to do. Maybe we think we're going to get into trouble, or maybe even miss out on something important.

When that happens we can shut down. We stop thinking clearly.

But there is good news: The powerful presence of God is greater than the powerful presence of fear. God is bigger than your fears. If you are a follower of Christ, the same God who created the universe is guiding your life. The same God who put the stars in the sky is listening to your prayers.

God has these reassuring words for his people in Isaiah 41:10: "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

In your prayers, speak to God openly about your fears, and ask him to help you overcome them.

The powerful presence of God is greater than the powerful presence of fear.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Take our fears, remind us that you are bigger than they are, and remind us that you are always with us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 17

Theme: Conflict

What to say:

Conflict is not fun. But it's a part of life. Maybe you know what is like.

There are times when we have conflict with our brothers or sisters, our teachers, our friends, and our parents.

It happens. But there are ways to respond to make things better, not worse.

First, don't gossip behind someone's back. And don't assume that everything they say or do is all bad. When we're in an argument with someone, we can sometimes assume the worst about everything they say or do.

Second, pray about the situation, see if there is anything you have done which might be wrong, and see if you can have an honest talk with them.

Speaking about the church in Ephesians 4:15 Paul says we should be "speaking the truth in love..." That's good advice for other situations as well. Mature people are honest, but they do so with a loving heart. We want to build others up, not tear them down.

Hopefully these are helpful ideas when you have to deal with conflict: Don't gossip behind someone's back. Don't always assume the worst. Pray about the situation. See if you have done anything wrong. Have an honest, loving conversation with the other person.

Conflict is a part of life—handle it well.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. When we have to deal with conflict, help us to be prayerful and thoughtful, making things better, not worse. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week18

Theme: Fickle or faithful

What to say:

There is a word that we don't use very much, but it's great. It's "fickle." Someone who is fickle is someone who easily changes their mind to go along with whatever is popular. They desperately want to fit in so they will not be loyal to God or to the people they have made commitments to.

The opposite of fickle is faithful.

When life got hard for Jesus he was faithful not fickle. He endured whipping, being made fun of and torture to accomplish what he came to do on the cross.

Another example is the apostle Paul. He and his friend Silas were in Philippi. They were beaten in the streets, thrown in jail (unjustly) and put in stocks (meaning their hands and feet were bound). What did they do? Acts 16: 25 tells us: "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them."

Wow! Even though they went through all that, they remained faithful (not fickle).

You probably have a lot of pressure to blend in, and to just like what everyone else likes. But there are times when you need to be different. When you humbly and confidently stand for the Lord, you are being faithful, not fickle!

On the ice and in life, let's be faithful, not fickle.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. We are all under different kinds of pressure to fit in and to do what everyone else is doing. Sometimes that's okay if what everyone else is doing is good. But when it's not, help us to be faithful to you above all. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 19

Theme: WWJD – Showing Your Light

What to say:

W.W.J.D.

Those four letters have become famous. It all started in the 1990's by a youth leader in Michigan. She made bracelets with those letters on them to encourage the youth in her group to think proactively about how they lived.

It stands for "What Would Jesus Do?"

Jesus didn't only believe things, he did things. He wanted to be faithful to his Heavenly Father, and he lived differently as a result. He shone his light. In fact, he himself said this in John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

That's the thing about light. It shines. Others can see it.

When you live out your faith, others will notice. None of us are perfect, but when we do the things that Jesus did, others notice. As a result, they might ask you a question about what you did or why you did it. This can be a good chance to talk about Jesus.

When you live in a way that good, which is truthful, which is loving, and which has integrity, you are also showing your light.

Don't be afraid to be different in these ways. There is a lot of darkness in our world. You can be a part of God's light!

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Help us to shine our light: to be good and truthful and loving. Empower us to live with integrity so we can shine the light of Christ. In his name we pray, Amen.

Week 20

Theme: Forgiveness

What to say:

One of the things that is great about the Bible is that it tells it like this is. For example, Romans 3:23 says, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

The only perfect person who ever lived was Jesus. He is the only one who never sinned. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that.

The rest us have a sin problem. This means that we frequently go against God’s teachings. One day we will have to give an account of ourselves before God.

So far, this sounds like very bad news. And it is. But there is also good news. Jesus saves us from the consequences of our sin. He came to pay the price for our sin by dying on the cross in our place. When you trust in who he is and what he has done for you on the cross, God gives you forgiveness as a free gift!

None of us are perfect. The only one who is perfect is Jesus; and he gave his life for your so that you can have peace with God.

I encourage you to believe in him, ask God for forgiveness, and to grow in your faith. Learn more about him, and with your gift of freedom and forgiveness, serve others as the hands and feet of Christ.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Thank you for the free gift of forgiveness in Christ. Help us to trust him, to know him, and to serve you. In his name we pray, Amen.

Week 21

Theme: Self-Control

What to say:

Raise your hand if you've ever taken a penalty in a game? Raise your hand if you've ever taken *more* than one penalty in a game?

Penalties happen. That's hockey. Sometimes you don't mean to take a penalty, but it still happens.

But there are other times when you lash out because you are undisciplined. You lose your temper and do something that is not good for the team (and often for the other player).

Self-control is just that: controlling yourself. It's knowing what you should or shouldn't do, regardless of what you feel.

Proverbs 25:28 in the Bible says: "Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control." In other words, if you can't control yourself you welcome destruction into your life!

This week in your everyday life, when you get upset about something, take a deep breath, count to 10, and ask God to help you respond in a good way.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Help us to grow in Christian character. Help us to have self-control so that we can make the best choices. This will help us, our teammates, our friends, and our families. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 22

Theme: Being a Show Off

What to say:

A show off is someone who always thinks they are the best. And they want others to know it.

They are always bragging and saying things like, "No one else is as good as me." Show offs often think they are the best player on the team and that no one else is as important as they are.

They don't seem to care about the other players and sometimes even make fun of others. They sometimes hog the puck and never pass.

It's all connected to pride. In the Bible, pride is a massive sin. In James 4:6 we are even told that "God opposes the proud..." Wow, God *opposes* those who are proud and who always put themselves first. Proverbs 16:18 even says that "Pride goes before destruction..." Yikes!

Christians should praise God, not themselves. It's about how great he is, not about how great we think we are.

Today, be confident, but don't pretend you're better than you are. Share the puck, encourage others, and be a good teammate.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for Jesus--your Son and our Saviour. We also praise and thank you for your word to us in the Bible. Help us to grow in Christian character. Help us to have a confident but realistic view of ourselves. Help us to put others first. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 23

Theme: The Gospel ABC's

What to say:

Well, our season and our journey as a team is at the end.

First, I want to say how proud I am of all of you. You have worked hard this season.

Second, because this is the Barrie Christian Hockey League, we do not want to end the season without talking to you about the most important reason for our league being here: Jesus.

We hear His words in the Bible, at church, Sunday School, Kids Clubs, Youth Group, or in family devotionals. He is the most important person in history and He invites us to trust and follow him on an amazing journey through life and beyond.

So how do we start this journey? The ABC's can be helpful:

Admit: Admit we have sinned. Admit we have not done the things God has asked us to do. And ask God to forgive us and make us new.

Believe: Believe in Jesus Christ as God's Son and in what he has done for us on the cross, giving his life for ours to pay the price for our sin. Believe that he is the Lord of our life, and that he is with us.

Choose: Choose to follow Jesus and to make Him the one who is in charge of our lives.

Admit, believe, choose.

We are going to pray in a moment. If you have never decided to follow Jesus, and you want to, you can speak to me, to one of the other coaches, to your parents, or a pastor at a church you know. We would love to talk to you about what it means to follow Jesus, and the amazing difference he makes in our lives. If you have decided to follow Jesus before, we would love to help you continue on your journey of faith, just like we have loved helping you grow as a hockey player.

Prayer and invitation