Family Devotional

Abide In Me
November 8

Let's Get Started!

- Have you ever wanted to get really good at something? What was it and what would it take?

Time To Think!

- Imagine if you wanted to become a great basketball player, but you never practiced. You might watch games, talk about basketball, and even buy the coolest basketball shoes. But would any of those things make you a better player? Not really! To improve, you have to practice. The same is true when it comes to following Jesus!
- In the Bible, the apostle Paul compares following Jesus to an athlete training for a competition. Athletes don't become great overnight. They practice, work hard, and keep going even when they don't feel like it.
  - Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
    - In verse 24, Paul compares following Jesus to running a race. Why do you think he uses a race to describe the Christian life?
    - In verse 25, Paul says athletes must train and practice self-control. What does self-control mean? Can you think of a time when you needed self-control?
    - In verse 26, Paul says he doesn't run aimlessly. What do you think it means to run without a goal? Why is it important to have a goal when we're trying to become more like Jesus?

Make It Mine!

- One way to help us grow is to make something called a Rule of Life. That might sound like a bunch of rules you have to follow, but it's actually just a plan to help you spend time with God and become more like Jesus. Your plan doesn't have to be complicated. Here are a few ideas:
  - Every day: Pray before school or read a few verses from the Bible.
  - Every week: Worship with your church family or do something kind for someone.
  - Every month: Find a special way to serve or encourage another person.
  - Go to mrcc.org/abide for tools to help create your Rule of LIfe. Work on it with your group or parents.
- And here's the best part: God doesn't expect you to be perfect! Sometimes you'll forget to pray or make a choice you wish you hadn't. When that happens, you can ask God for forgiveness and try again. We don't practice these things to make God love us more. He already loves us! We practice them because we love Him and want to become more like Jesus.

Prayer

Thank You for loving me and caring about everything that happens in my life. Sometimes I worry about things I can't control. Help me remember that You are always with me. Teach me to bring my worries to You, talk to people who can help me, and trust You with tomorrow. Help me focus on doing the next right thing today. In Jesus' name, Amen.