

TEAM SPORTS devotions

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Leading By Example

Galatians 5:22-23a, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Matthew 26:53, Romans 6:23,8:11, John 3:16



What is a role model? A role model is someone people look up to and try to be like. A role model chooses his words and actions carefully. He keeps himself from doing things he shouldn't do. He looks for the things he should do and does them. He does what's best for others. He is willing to do hard things even if it costs him something.



*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and **self-control**.*

Galatians 5:22-23a



Who is our perfect role model? (Jesus) Jesus is the perfect role model who shows us self-control. He chose his words and actions carefully. He kept himself from doing things he shouldn't do. Jesus had no sin in him. *2 Corinthians 5:21* He did hard things even when it cost him something. **What very hard thing did Jesus do which took tremendous self-control?** Jesus chose to go through terrible suffering for us. He allowed himself to die on a cross. Jesus didn't deserve this punishment. He had the power to stop it, but he chose to go through it. *Matthew 26:53* **Why did Jesus choose to die for us?** Unlike Jesus, we do have sin in us. We have done things our way instead of God's way. A price has to be paid for our sin. Unless the price is paid, we can't be with God the way he created us to. The price for sin is death. *Romans 6:23* Because Jesus loves us, he willingly paid the price for us. Jesus did what was best for us even though it cost him. Then something amazing happened. God's Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and broke the power of sin and death once and for all. *Romans 8:11* When we believe and trust Jesus, we don't have to suffer the punishment of sin.



God's word says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." *John 3:16* God gave his son, Jesus, because it was best for us. When you choose to believe in Jesus and trust him with your life, you will be able to be with God the way you were meant to. Self-control means choosing what is best. **Have you chosen what is best? Have you chosen to believe in Jesus?** If you want to make that choice, pray with me.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, I have sinned. I've known what I should do, but I've done what I wanted instead. Please forgive me. I believe Jesus paid the price for my sins when he died on the cross and was raised to life again. I trust you to come into my life and change me. Help me follow Jesus every day of my life. Amen.