The Man Who Invented Basketball

Proverbs 16:1-3



Have you ever imagined what you want to do when you're grown up? James Naismith did. He decided he wanted to help people. James Naismith loved God and sports. He wanted to help young people train their physical bodies and grow their faith. Naismith became a teacher at the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) Training School. During the winter, his class was bored with exercising inside. They grew restless. Naismith saw they needed a new game to play. He wanted to come up with something that would be good exercise and teach them about Jesus. James Naismith invented the game of basketball. He wanted the game to help them become friends with Jesus.

> ***Depend on the Lord in whatever you do.***
> ***Then your plans will succeed.***
>
> Proverbs 16:3



What does it mean to depend on the Lord? (to trust God and let him be in charge) James Naismith depended on the Lord and let him be in charge of whatever he did. God helped Naismith think of a game that would teach people about Jesus. His plan turned out better than he could have imagined. Basketball became popular very quickly. The first team was a boys' team. Within a month, there were girls' teams, too. Basketball soon spread from the YMCA Training School to the whole United States and around the world. James Naismith did not make any money from the game. He didn't want to. Rather, he enjoyed watching people have fun playing his game. Later on, when he watched young people play basketball in church leagues, he smiled because what he had imagined had come true. This season, we are going to learn how James Naismith created basketball to help us become friends with Jesus.



If you need help with something, how could you depend on the Lord?

PRAY

Lord, we want to be your friend. Show us how to depend on you and let you be in charge so that our plans will succeed. Help us use the things we love to help people in the world. Amen.

Copyright © 2018 Team Sports Devotions. All Rights Reserved.