

ALTERNATE HALFTIME DEVOTIONS & ACTIVITIES

UPWARD
SPORTS

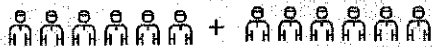
GAME: Hula Hoop Passage

THEME:

Teamwork

PARTICIPANTS:

Two Teams of 6 Players



SUPPLIES: Two Hula-Hoops



INSTRUCTIONS:

Divide participants into two teams of six people. Each team will form a circle by holding hands with the people on their left and right. Place a hula-hoop over two of the participant's joined hands. Participants will have 60 seconds to pass the hula-hoop around the circle without letting go of each other's hands. The first team to move the hula-hoop around the circle wins.

DEVOTION:

But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work. Nehemiah 2:17-18

I love watching people work together and I love working together with a bunch of other people. Do you know why? Because when people work together, they can always do more than they can alone. There is a story in the Bible about a man named Nehemiah who had a dream to rebuild the city wall around Jerusalem. Now, a city wall keeps a city safe, makes it a good place to have a business, and

helps families live together. But what about a wall around a whole city? That is a huge job, and Nehemiah knew he needed help. He first asked for God's help, which is very important. Next, he asked for help from his boss, the king. This is also very important. Then, he asked other people for help. Because he saw the value in cooperation, he got the wall completely finished in . . . what do you think? Do you think it took a year? Two years? It took 52 days to finish the wall. That is incredible. It is the kind of thing that can happen when we work together.

Let's pray and ask God to put people in our lives with whom we can work together to accomplish things for his glory and his plan for each of our lives.

PRAYER:

- Thank God that he helps us to get things done.
- Ask God to give us opportunities to help others.
- Ask God for the humility to ask for help when we need it.