

# ALTERNATE HALFTIME DEVOTIONS & ACTIVITIES

UPWARD  
SPORTS

## GAME: Round Seat

### THEMES:

*Teamwork*

### PARTICIPANTS: 10



### SUPPLIES: None

### INSTRUCTIONS:

The leader will give the participants 30 seconds to get all 10 participants lined up in a tight circle so that when they are instructed to all sit down at the same time, each participant will be sitting on the person's lap behind them. The goal is for all 10 participants to use each other's lap to sit down.

### DEVOTION:

*One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus.*

*Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."*

*But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"*

*Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man[a] has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"*

*And immediately, as everyone watched, the*

*man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!" Luke 5:17-26*

That's a game where either everybody succeeds, or nobody does. Sometimes we face things that are exactly like that. We all have to work together to get where we are going. When Jesus was on the earth a lot of people wanted to see him. One of those people was a man who could not even walk. There was no way he was going to be able to get through the crowds of people and see Jesus. So do you know what his friends did? They worked together and carried him to the house where Jesus was staying. When they could not get inside because of the crowd, they worked together to lower him through a hole in the roof with ropes! I think that's pretty impressive. Those must have been some great friends to have. And I think there's a principle there that we can all learn from - friends work together to change lives. I know my life has been changed in wonderful ways by my friends. Yours has too.

Unfortunately, we do not always remember to work together with our friends. Let's ask God to help us to remember to work together and thank him for those people who have changed our lives.

### PRAYER:

- Pray God would help us remember to help each other out.
- Thank God for the help He gives us in the difficulties we face each day.
- Pray God will use the church to help those who need it.