

# ALTERNATE HALFTIME DEVOTIONS & ACTIVITIES

UPWARD  
SPORTS

## GAME: Newspaper Race

### THEMES:

*Good News,  
Gospel, Christmas*

### PARTICIPANTS: 3 or More



### SUPPLIES: 6 Newspaper Sections

*Carpet squares*

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Invite three or more people to participate and have them join you on the floor. Give each two sections of a newspaper that are folded in half. Mark a starting line and a finish line. The half-court line and the baseline will work well.

The object of the "race" is to travel from the starting line to the finish line, walking only on the newspaper. The player's feet must not touch the gym floor at any time.

When you say "go!" the players put both papers on the floor and take two steps. Then while standing on the forward-most paper, they reach back, pick up the paper behind them, place it in front and step onto it. They continue in this way until they reach the finish line.

Run the race. Then thank your helpers and send them back to their seats.

### DEVOTION:

*...but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"*  
Luke 2:10-11

Good news is hard to come by. If you turn on the TV or scroll through Facebook, you are bound to see stories about war, murder, death, and natural disasters. It's hard to find any news to be joyful about!

Well, here it is! Luke 2:10-11 says, *"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"* Jesus is God's gift of good news to a world that is struggling in so many ways. He is the solution to what is wrong with

us, and with our world.

The word gospel literally means "good news" and it's pretty simple. Tim Keller once said, "We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." We live in a world filled with bad news, but good news is found when we trust Jesus and his forgiveness of our sin.

On that silent night in Bethlehem, the good news was Jesus. 2000 years later, the good news is still Jesus!

### PRAYER:

- Thank God for the good news Jesus brings us.
- Ask God that those who don't know about Jesus will be receptive to learning about Him.
- Thank God for the forgiveness of sin that comes only through His Son, Jesus Christ.