

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK**INTRODUCTION TO START PRACTICE/GAME**

This week our virtue theme is COMPASSION - *The strength to be aware of the needs of others and the desire to help them.* COMPASSION is vital for everything meaningful in life. We need to have COMPASSION on this team, in school, in our relationships, in our future families if we expect to live life to the fullest.

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for this day, this opportunity, this time together. Strengthen our wills and forge our resolve to practice the virtue of COMPASSION in our pursuit of excellence in every area of our life. Does anyone have any prayer intentions? Who wants to lead us in a prayer?

STORY TO TELL IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRAYER**WAITRESS PICKS UP CHECK FOR FIREFIGHTER WHO FOUGHT MASSIVE BLAZE**

A waitress at a New Jersey diner picked up the breakfast bill for a firefighter and his friend, after the emergency worker spent 12 hours fighting the massive blaze in North Brunswick this week, according to published reports.

Now, those firefighters from Burlington County are trying to figure if there's a way to help the waitress, whose father has been a quadriplegic since suffering a brain aneurysm rupture in 2010, according to WPVI-TV in Philadelphia.

According to a Facebook post from Tim Young, a Mount Laurel firefighter, he decided to take his buddy, Paul Hullings, out for breakfast at the Route 130 Diner in Delran earlier this week.

Hullings, a Hainesport firefighter, had just spent 12 hours supplying water and fighting the warehouse fire that broke out near Route 1 in Middlesex County and brought firefighters from 100 departments to Central Jersey.

“Well, the waitress overheard us talking and this is what she set down instead of the bill,” he wrote in the post. “Such a selfless and kind act. I definitely urge my friends to make a trip out and support the business, and if Liz happens to be your waitress, big tip.”

He posted a photo of the check, where instead of the tab she wrote them a note, explaining she was paying their bill and thanking them for their service.

“Fueled by fire and driven by courage - what an example you are. Get some rest!,” she wrote.

The waitress, Liz Woodward, just wanted to recognize the work of the firefighters and thought nothing of picking up the check, according to myfoxphilly.com.

Now, people who have heard the story are trying to help Woodward and her family.

In December 2014, the waitress set up a GoFundMe Page to raise money to buy a wheelchair accessible van for her dad.

In a post written six months ago, she thanked everyone who donated to the family, explaining that they had reached their fundraising goal. She wrote that any additional money donated would be used to buy more equipment and pay for care for her father.

As her story gets shared, donations are being made to the family again, with a few dozen posted to the site since Thursday.

“My father lost his job during the economic recession in 2008, lost his independence in 2010, and we lost our home to foreclosure in 2014, but we refuse to lose hope!” she wrote.

QUESTIONS TO ENGAGE PLAYERS

1. We often take things for granted, like a good meal for example. Name three other things we should be more grateful for on a regular basis and why:
2. Who can we help and show some compassion to as a team?

RESOLUTION TO WORK ON DURING PRACTICE/GAME

Notice teammates this week! Notice their attitudes, their effort, their strengths and weaknesses. Then have COMPASSION in reaching out to them, thus building more team.

MENTORING MOMENT TO SHOW YOUR PLAYERS THAT YOU CARE ABOUT THEM

Ask individually as many players as you can during practice/game the below:

What teammates have you noticed this week in practice? What have you done to make them feel more a part of the team?

END OF PRACTICE/GAME PRAYER

Lord, God, You didn't run at the first sign of chaos or difficulty. You showed us how to have true COMPASSION for others by coming to earth to save us. We want to live like You. We want to live for You and for others. Help us to have COMPASSION for others this week, by sincerely reaching out to those in need.

WAY TO LIVE THE VIRTUE THIS WEEK

Encourage and befriend someone who appears lonely. Make sure no one eats alone at school.

VIDEO CLIP

Click on the below link and consider emailing this to all your parents to have them watch with their kids as a way to help foster the virtue of the week.

You could also consider bringing your tablet to practice and showing the video to your players as well.

<http://www.sportsleader.org/video/autism-car-wash>

QUOTES FOR THE WEEK

***Each day this week communicate the quote of the day.**

MONDAY

“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.” - Dalai Lama

TUESDAY

“A kind word is like a Spring day.” - Russian Proverb

WEDNESDAY

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” - Mark Twain

THURSDAY

“By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach.” - Winston Churchill

FRIDAY

“We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.” - Epictetus

SATURDAY

“A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives roses.” - Chinese Proverb

SUNDAY

“In about the same degree as you are helpful, you will be happy.” - Karl Reiland

VIRTUE IMAGE

***Share this image with your players to create a visual to help them understand how virtue is a strength.**



BIBLE QUOTE**Luke 10: 25-37**

There was a scholar of the law* who stood up to test him and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?”

He said in reply, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

He replied to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.’

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?”

He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

SONG

<https://www.sportsleader.org/video/third-day-cry-out-to-jesus>

SAINT VERONICA

St. Veronica is the True Image of Compassion.

The name Veronica is derived from the Latin vera (true) and icon (image) and was likely given to this woman due to the credence that as she tried to absorb the sweat, dirt, and blood from the face of Jesus, a miraculous image of his face was left on the fabric. St. Veronica's cloth bearing the imprint of Jesus' face is claimed to be in a variety of places, including St. Peter's in Rome and a monastery in Manoppello, Italy.