

Winning Prayers

By Lee Yates



Lots of teams pray as part of their pre-game ritual. So, what do they pray for? When we are competing, what are we asking God to do? What happens when our competitors pray, too? Take time to talk and pray about this issue.

For

Teen Family

Season

Spring

Needed

Bible, paper, pen



by [billkrisjacob](#)

Prepare in Advance

Mark your Bible at Amos 5:21-24 and Matthew 21:21-22.

Activity Plan

1. Open in prayer. Here are some words if you need them:

Lord, help us to learn to keep our priorities straight when we come to you in prayer and forgive us when we fall short. In Jesus' name. Amen.

2. Read aloud Matthew 21:21-22 from your Bible or the text at the end of this activity. Discuss the verses:

- What questions would you like to ask Jesus about these verses?
- How do you think God responds when people pray to win a sports competition?
- In what ways do you think prayer can influence the outcome of a game?

3. Read aloud Amos 5:21-24 from your Bible or the text at the end of this activity. Discuss the verses:

- What questions would you like to ask God about these verses?
- How might our prayers offend God?
- Could prayers asking God to help us ever be sinful? If so, how?

4. Reflect on the role of prayer in sports and competition. What happens when two competing teams are praying for God's help in winning? For what might Christians pray before competitive events?

5. Work together to write a prayer to use at the beginning of a sports competition. If you are willing, share it with others at [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#). Check back to see what prayers others have posted.

6. Close in prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

God, thank you for the gift of enthusiasm, the rush of adrenaline, and the lessons we learn through competition. Help us to enjoy the thrill of sports without losing sight of your ways and your will for our lives. Amen.



Matthew 21:21-22

²¹ And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. ²² And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Amos 5:21-24

²¹ [Thus says the Lord ...] "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

