Encouragement

Ready:

"And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works." -- Hebrews 10:24

Set

Coach Peacock's team had just won a state championship. They were celebrating in the locker room, and Coach was hugging his players right and left.

As the congratulations continued, the coach noticed one player in particular sitting alone on a bench, watching him. Coach Peacock knew that the young man's parents were divorced and that his dad was an alcoholic who never attended any of his son's games. So, he walked over to the player and asked if he was OK. The young man responded, "Yes, Coach, but I was just wondering… could I have another hug?"

The experience was a milestone in Coach Peacock's life, so much so that he began a campaign to be a "team of huggers." He started with the coaching staff. Soon, the coaches began sharing hugs with their players, and Coach Peacock found that hugs were a tremendously effective form of encouragement.

There are many ways we can encourage others. Hebrews 10:24 says that we are to consider how to stimulate and encourage one another to good works. Why? Because Jesus, the Son of God, willingly took on all of our discouragement on the cross so that we might experience the embrace of God's love.

Because of that truth, let's consider all the ways that we might encourage our fellow coaches, teachers, players, family members and neighbors.

Go

- What are some specific ways that you could encourage your team?
- What does encouragement toward others look like in your spiritual walk?

Workout

Romans 15:4-6

Hebrews 3:12-13

Overtime

"God, thank You for inviting me to experience the embrace of Your love! May Your love

always lead me as I consider how to encourage others. Amen."

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