

## **Like Your Children**

### **Ready:**

*“As you know, like a father with his own children” – 1 Thessalonians 2:11*

### **Set**

In 2015, NBA player Austin Rivers was traded to the LA Clippers and became the first NBA player ever to play for his dad. From 2015-2018, Rivers and his dad, Coach Doc Rivers, were on the same team. There is probably some downside to that situation, but there must be some unique joy in being able to coach your child and help them grow in their sport.

One of the admirable things about the Apostle Paul is how he viewed those he helped find Christ. He referred to Timothy as his child in the faith. In 1 Thessalonians, he reminded the people how he treated them like his children. He encouraged and urged them to live for the Lord so they could share in the Kingdom and glory of God (1 Thessalonians 2:12).

How do you encourage other players? There is nothing wrong with desiring a successful career, But there is a way to do it that can also help others be better players. You can also help those around you grow closer to Christ. Paul shared how in 1 Thessalonians 2:12.

Paul said he encouraged, comforted, and implored those around him. As a coach or athlete, you can invite others to keep working on their game. As a person of faith, you can invite others to walk with the Lord and encourage them to grow through daily study and prayer.

Coaches and athletes who are leaders have the opportunity to pass on important values that can help others in and away from sports. As followers of Christ, we can teach the things of the Lord to others so they may glorify God and then teach those same things to others. Now, THAT would be coaching!

### **Go**

1. Have you ever coached one of your children or been coached by your parent? How was the experience?
2. When you consider the influence you can have on the players on your team, how does that make you feel?

### **Workout**

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

1 Timothy 1:1-2

### **Overtime**

“Father, thank You for loving me and leading me. Please help me do the same with my teammates. Amen.”



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