

Determination

Concept: We are to approach sports teams and life in general with determination. Being determined means to be persistent in trying and to give our best shot. We should try our best to contribute to the team and continue to keep trying even if we lose sometimes. There are lessons to be learned from losing.

“Sometimes We Lose”

Our Father knows what’s best for us, so why should we complain --
We always want the sunshine, but He knows there must be rain --
We love the sound of laughter and the merriment of cheer,
But our hearts would lose their tenderness, if we never shed a tear --

Our Father tests us often with suffering and sorrow,
He tests us, not to punish us, but to help us meet tomorrow...
For growing trees are strengthened when they withstand the storm,
And the sharp cut of the chisel, gives the marble grace and form...
God never hurts us needlessly, and He never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us is followed by rich gain...

And when we count the blessings that God has so freely sent,
We will find no cause for murmuring and no time to lament...
For our Father loves His children, and to Him all things are plain
So He never sends us pleasure when the soul’s deep need is pain....
So whenever everything goes wrong
It is just working in us,
To make our spirit strong.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the common saying, “It’s not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game.”
2. Discuss the fact that there will be wins and losses in life and the need to be a good sport and show determination either way.
3. Talk about how to demonstrate determination on a daily/weekly basis.

Quotes:

“Big shots are only little shots who kept on shooting.” (Dale Carnegie)

“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another.” (Unknown)

Fun Facts Relating to Determination:

1. Who wanted to manage a candy store and, at age 19, tried and failed? He went to New York where he failed again. (Milton Hershey)

2. Who wanted to be a military leader and graduated 42nd out of a class of 43 in military school? (Napoleon)
3. Who wanted to be a baseball player and struck out 1330 times? (Babe Ruth)