

**Gift of Life Questionnaire**

Talk with your family about the day of your birth or adoption and the circumstances that surrounded it. Look over any pictures you may have of this day. Share together your thoughts about the wonderful gifts of life God gave you through your parents. List some of the important things you want to remember about the day of your birth.

My name \_\_\_\_\_

My date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

The time I was born \_\_\_\_\_

How much I weighed \_\_\_\_\_

The date of my baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Some things family and friends said about me \_\_\_\_\_

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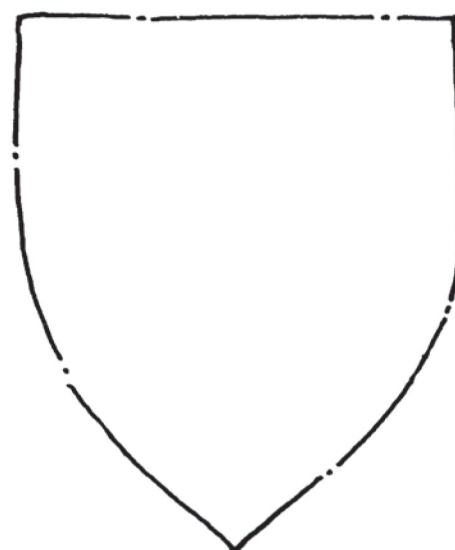
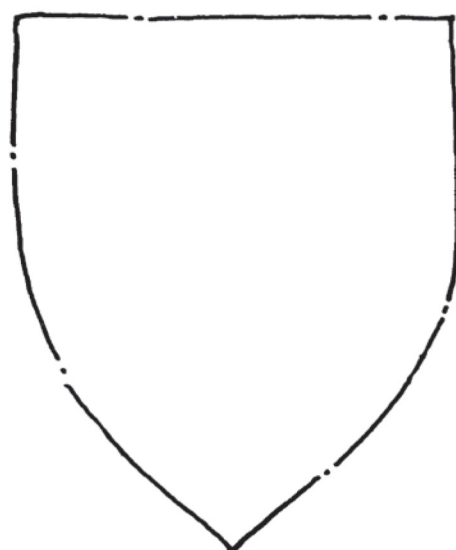
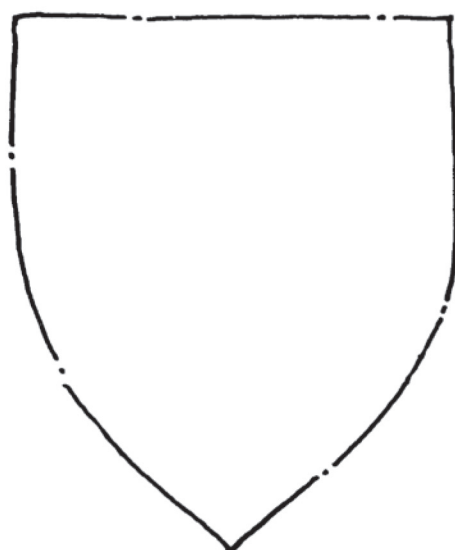
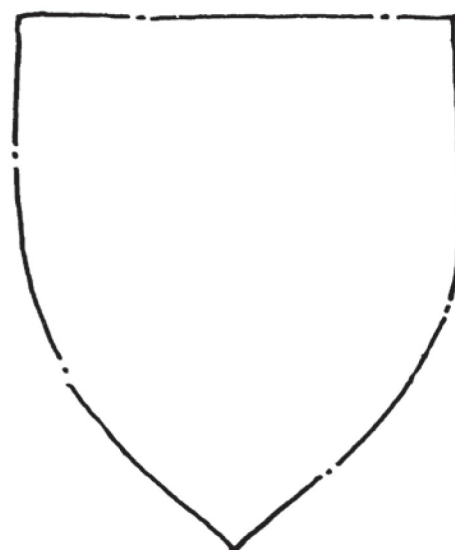
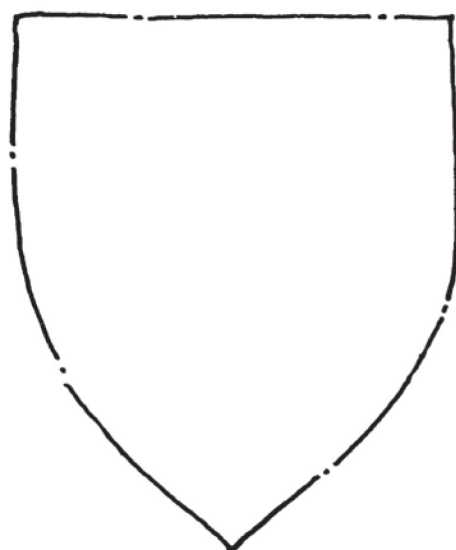
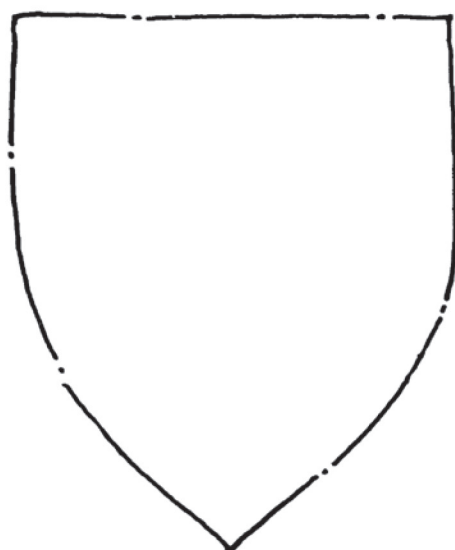
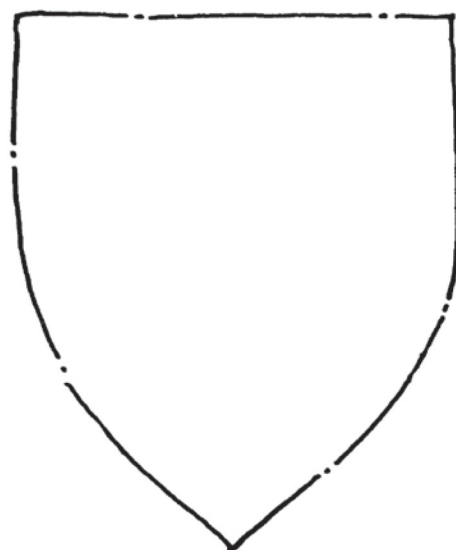
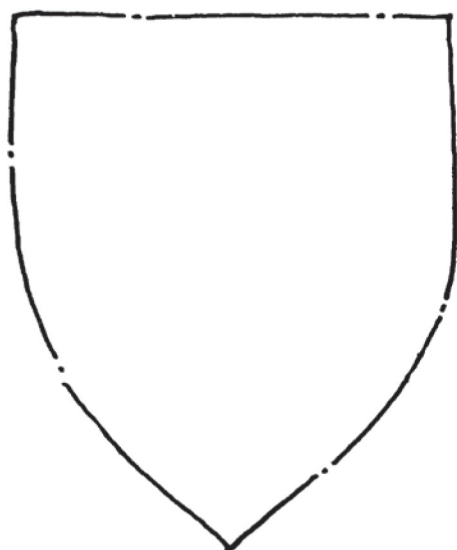
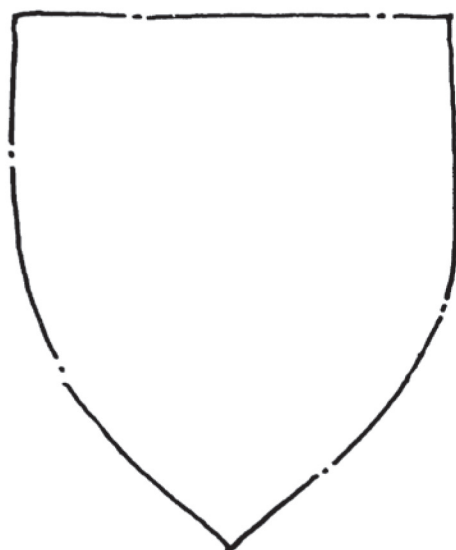
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## Super Bowl Celebration: Bingo Card Template


## Scriptural Principles

*Don't bury your talents.* In Matthew 25:14–30, Jesus shares the parable of the talents with his disciples. The key learning is that we are not to bury our “talents” but to utilize them to the best of our abilities. This is true in athletics and in our service to God as well.

*Be a leader.* In 2 Chronicles 31:21, Hezekiah was admired for pouring his entire heart and soul into his work. Hezekiah is an example for us both in athletics and in our service to God. Whatever your sport, you want to pour your entire heart and soul into your efforts. This will enable you to be a leader on your team, on the court, and on the playing field.

*Stay in the moment.* Paul encourages the Philippians in Philippians 4:4–8 to “stay in the moment.” In verse 8 he encourages us to focus on purity and what is good. It is easy to lose focus in an athletic event, especially if the opposing team has scored or made a significant gain. It is important to stay focused on the task at hand and to “win the next play.” All too often we see a team lose focus if they are behind and fail to play up to the best of their abilities when they are behind. For an athlete and a follower of Christ, it is important to put past failures behind you and stay focused on the present to maximize your potential as an athlete and a servant to the Lord.

*Leave “IT” in the gym or on the field.* In athletics we are encouraged to “leave it in the gym or on the field.” Great athletes will use every ounce of energy they have to win the game, event, or championship. Frequently, after Olympic running events you will see athletes collapse from exhaustion. They have poured every ounce of energy into the race to the point they have “left it all on the field.” Paul encourages the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 9:24 to run the race so that they may obtain the prize knowing that only one runner will be crowned champion. To be successful in athletics and in life we have to “run the race” as Paul has encouraged the Corinthians.

*Be prepared to endure.* Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:1–3, 12 to be prepared to endure hardship. Anyone that has participated in intercollegiate football or basketball has endured weeks of grueling practice sessions. Coaches put their teams through a period of difficult preparation in an effort to prepare them physically, mentally, and emotionally for the challenges that lie ahead. Paul encouraged Timothy to prepare himself to endure hardships. As athletes and followers of Christ, we must prepare ourselves to endure the challenges we will face as well.

*Remember your priorities.* All too often we see athletes lose focus on what is important in life (family, God, commitments). Paul encouraged the Colossians in Colossians 3:1–3 to focus on what is important in life. It is important in athletics as well as in our lives to maintain our focus on our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## Sports Mentioned in the Bible

*Wrestling:* Genesis tells us that Jacob wrestled all night with a messenger of God.

*Boxing:* In 2 Timothy, Paul tells us that he has fought the good fight.

*Track:* In 2 Timothy, Paul says he has finished the race and kept the faith.

*Fishing* was the occupation of most of the twelve apostles. Matthew 4:19: “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”

*Sailing* is a sport for many people today, but boats were important modes of transportation in biblical times. Jesus and his apostles sailed on the Sea of Galilee.

*Rowing* is a sport for many people today. In Acts 27, Paul traveled in sailboats and suffered in a shipwreck. When the sailing vessels got close to shore, the passengers often traveled to the shore in dinghies or rowboats.

*Swimming* saved the lives of some of those who suffered shipwreck with Paul, but today it is a very enjoyable sport.

*Horseback riding*—a sport today—is referred to in 1 Kings.

*Archery* also receives mention in 1 Kings.

*Camping* is mentioned several times in the Old Testament, and in 2 Corinthians our earthly dwelling is referred to as a tent.

*Mountain climbing:* Moses, of course, climbed Mount Sinai, and Jesus, Peter, James, and John climbed a high mountain where Jesus’ transfiguration took place.

*Walking* considerable distances is mentioned throughout the Bible, Abraham and Sarah being one example. Jesus met two disciples when they were walking on the road to Emmaus.

*Javelin throwing*, a sport today, was an ancient method of warfare. Look for this in the Old Testament.

*Discus throwing:* Was shooting a rock from a slingshot, the method of warfare in which David killed Goliath, somewhat similar to the throwing of a discus?

*Baseball:* Did you know that baseball is mentioned in the Bible? “In the big inning” (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1).

## Sports-Related Traits

*Endurance:* See Galatians 9:9.

*Perseverance:* See James 1:2–4, Romans 5:3–5, and Hebrews 10:36.

*Training:* See Ephesians 6:4.

*Pursuit of the goal:* See Philippians 3:14.

*Strength:* See Philippians 4:13 and Job 17:9.

*Losing:* See Luke 9:25.

*Physical training:* See 1 Timothy 4:8.

*Spur others on:* See Hebrews 10:24.

