

Name _____

Lesson 54

Teamwork

an adaptation of “The Bundle of Sticks,” an Aesop’s fable

Tryouts were finally over. Coach Harrell checked out his new team. The fact that they were the best players he’d seen in years made him hopeful for the season.

Coach separated the boys into teams and had them play a half-court game. He was disappointed in what he saw. Damon wouldn’t stick to his defensive position. Aaron knocked his own teammate down while running to get a rebound. Not a single player seemed willing to pass.

Coach blew his whistle. He had ordered Chinese food for the team, and they sat down together.

“I want to see how tough you guys are,” Coach said. He took the chopsticks out of their packages, bundled them together, and handed them to Damon.

“Try to snap that,” Coach said.

The boys laughed as Damon struggled.

“I’ll show you how to do it,” Aaron said, grabbing the chopsticks from Damon. The boys watched Aaron get red in the face. Not a single stick broke.

“Pass them around,” Coach said, “One chopstick per person.”

Once each teammate had a stick, Coach said, “Ready? Break them.” The sound of snapping wood filled the air.

“Think about what you just saw,” Coach said. “Let’s be like these chopsticks. By sticking together and supporting each other, we can become an unbreakable team.”

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Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 481

SAM Keyword: Theme

