

*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 8, 28-34*



How to Build Confidence on the Baseball Field

If you can dream it, you can do it.

—Walt Disney, the Good Dad of Mickey Mouse

You know your child plays baseball well. You've hit flies to him and watched him make quiet, competent plays. But when he's standing on the field during a game, his talents abandon him like passengers from a sinking ship. And sink he does, as he staggers under an easy pop fly or lets a one-hopper get past him. Plainly, your kid's lost his confidence.

Just as plainly, you can help him find it again. The next time he's on the field, just have him silently repeat seven short words: "I hope the ball comes to me."

Then tell him to vividly visualize what he'll do when the ball does come to him. Let's imagine there are runners on first and third. An easy fly ball comes his way. He catches it. But now does he throw it to first, or try to nail the runner at home? What if it's a long fly he has to catch on the run? Does he still throw home? Or does he fake a throw home and try to nail the runner at second? Or, suppose it's a clean base hit? If the batter is loafing on his way to first, could your kid make a surprise throw and get him out? When major league players pull off this last coup, the park goes suddenly silent. Amazing! The runner's out! A few minutes later, the crowd's still agog with disbelief. That fielder threw out a runner on a solid base hit!

As your kid stands on his field of dreams, rehearsing all the possibilities, an interesting thing happens; instead of worrying about how he'll perform and fretting he might screw up, he becomes so deeply focused on the game he no longer even thinks about failing. He's too busy mentally preparing himself for success.

So if that guy on first thinks he can easily take second on the next fly hit to your kid, he's in for a rude surprise. And when your kid's grown, he'll know that the journey to excellence always begins with a vision. If asked by a supervisor to prepare a report, he won't groan, "Oh, my God! A report?" He'll already have imagined what he'd do if that report came to him.

What's in a Name?

The clues for this puzzle come from Acts 4:32-36. Rearrange the circled letters to find what the name of Barnabas means.

1. These were of one heart and mind (v. 32).



2. What they did with their things (v. 32).



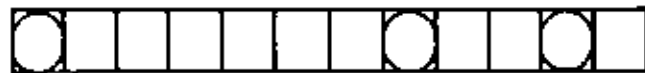
3. The kind of power they had (v. 33).



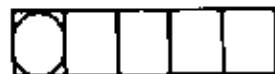
4. The apostles continued to do this (v. 33).



5. What special thing they told about Jesus (v. 33).



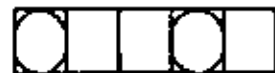
6. They didn't have any person like this (v. 34).



7. The two things people sold (v. 34).



8. What people brought to apostles from selling lands and houses (vv. 34, 35).



SON OF

