

# ENCOURAGEMENT

## Definition

The action of giving someone support, confidence, or hope.

## Story

Michael Jordan led the NBA in scoring in 10 seasons (NBA record) and tied Wilt Chamberlain's record of seven consecutive scoring titles. Jordan also holds the top career regular season and playoff scoring averages of 30.1 and 33.4 points per game respectively. Jordan's total of 5,987 points in the playoffs is the highest in NBA history. He retired with 32,292 points in regular season play placing him fourth on the NBA's all-time scoring list behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, and Kobe Bryant.

With five regular-season MVPs, six Finals MVPs (NBA record), and three All-Star MVPs, Jordan is the most decorated player ever to play in the NBA. Jordan finished among the top three in regular-season MVP voting a record 10 times, and was named one of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History in 1996. He is one of only seven players in history to win an NCAA championship, an NBA championship, and an Olympic gold medal.

And just think, all of this almost didn't happen!

Michael Jordan was cut from the Emsley A. Laney High School basketball team the first year he tried out. It was the inspiring words of his father that encouraged him to never give up and to fight through failure. These simple words of his father pushed him to greatness: "You never know what you can accomplish until you try." – James Jordan (Michael Jordan's father)

## Quote

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."

***Michael Jordan***

## **Interaction**

1. Do you have someone in your life who consistently gives you encouragement?
2. Do you feel like it has helped you to get over some of the hurdles in your life with the encouragement of that person?
3. Who do you offer encouragement to and when?
4. How important is it to you to hear words of encouragement? What impact does it have on you?
5. Each player stands up and encourages another player.

## **Main Idea**

It is good to have support and also to give it. Appreciate those who support you and pay it forward. Let someone know you are there for them no matter what.

## **Take Away**

“Do you know when someone is in need of encouragement? They are breathing.” **Truett Cathy** (Founder of Chick-fil-A)