

# The Beat

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After months of training and planning and working, it all comes down to this. The team is tight, disciplined, and committed to giving its all. The coach encourages and challenges each player. To survive, the team must be strong both physically and mentally, both on offense and defense. Do the players have what it takes? The final showdown has arrived. What will happen?

It's March Madness time in U.S. college basketball, when the country's best teams compete for the honor of being named the number one basketball team in the nation. The men's tournament, which is always unpredictable, will end with the championship competition on April 7. But in the meantime, games filled with surprise endings and unexpected heroes, plus the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat, will keep fans on the edge of their seats.



## THINK ABOUT IT

- Do you like basketball? Why or why not?
- What do you think is the most important thing to remember when you are part of a team?

## The Thrill of Victory and the Agony of Defeat

Jesus' team of apostles trained and planned and worked to win the victory for God. What were some surprise endings they experienced? Who were the unexpected heroes? How did the final showdown between Jesus and Satan play out? Create two columns and see how many people and events in Jesus' ministry you can list under the headings "The Thrill of Victory" and "the Agony of Defeat."



Jesus came to earth and won the victory over death. Who can you share that news with this week?