



**By Elder Brian K. Taylor**  
Of the Seventy

When I was 11 years old, I loved basketball. My oldest brother loved it too. He played on the basketball team in college. He had to decide whether to serve a mission or keep playing on the team.

One night at dinner, he was talking with our family about whether or not to serve a mission. I just blurted out, “If you go on a mission, I’ll go on a mission.” Everyone was silent as my brother thought about what I said.

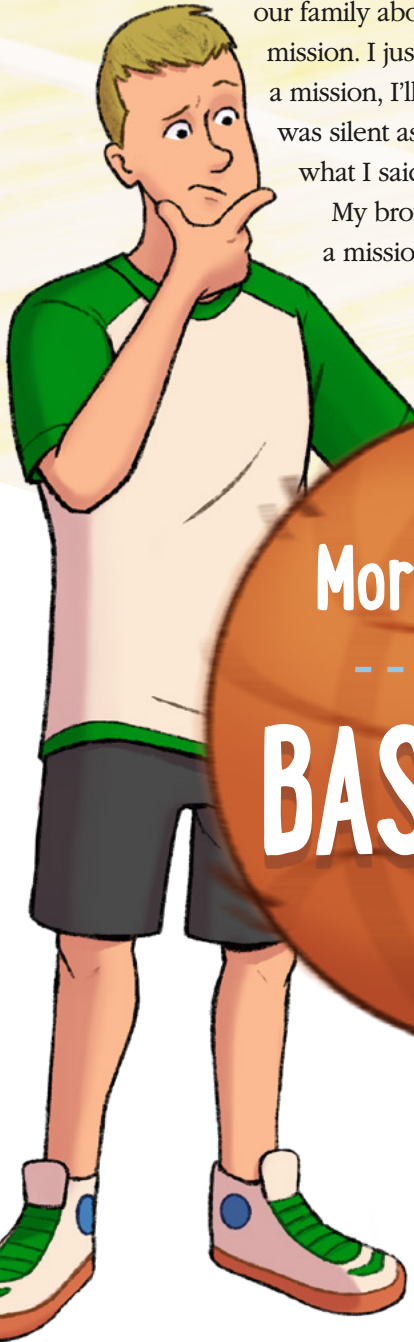
My brother did decide to go on a mission! In fact, all four of my

brothers served missions. When it was time for me to decide whether or not to serve, it wasn’t a question. I had already made that choice!

Someone else who loved basketball helped me prepare for my mission too. His name is Devin Durrant, and he was one of my teammates in college. He became my hero.

He asked me if I knew what it felt like to make the winning shot in a basketball game. I said yes. Then he said, “It’s great. But it can’t compare to how you’ll feel when you teach and baptize someone on your mission.” I never forgot that.

Through these great examples in my life, Heavenly Father showed me that His work was more important than basketball. What matters most is living the gospel of Jesus Christ so we can live with Heavenly Father again. ●



More Important  
--- Than ---  
**BASKETBALL**



*From an interview  
with Tiffany Leary.*

## Missionary Basketball

Play this game to practice sharing the gospel!



**What church  
do you go to?**

(Tip: Use the  
full name of the  
Church.)

**Do you believe  
in the Bible?**

**Are you a  
Christian?**

**Why do you  
believe in God?**

**Who is  
Joseph  
Smith?**

**What is the  
Book of  
Mormon?**

1. Cut out the squares below and crumple them into balls.
2. Set a bowl at the end of a table or desk. Then take turns shooting the balls into the bowl.
3. When a ball lands in the bowl, open the paper and read the question. Practice answering it as if you were talking to someone who wants to learn more about the Church.