



## Hoop It Up

Come springtime, the NCAA tournament comes with a craze for basketball and brackets. March Madness sweeps the nation, and anything is possible — underdogs come out on top, the elite come up short, and a shot at the buzzer ends in ultimate glory. Nothing is guaranteed except excitement. Get in on the fun by filling out a bracket. If you're not a basketball buff, don't worry. Try one of these strategies:

### Pulling Rank

Each team in the tournament is ranked based on regular season performance, and this ranking is reflected on the bracket. You could select the regions' number one teams for your Final Four and probably score some major points doing so, but many of these top teams have often lost in the second or third round of play.



### Fast and Furious

Print out a bracket, grab a pen, set the timer for one minute, and GO! Don't think, just write. Your gut instinct might be just the ticket for a winning prediction.

### Mascot Mayhem

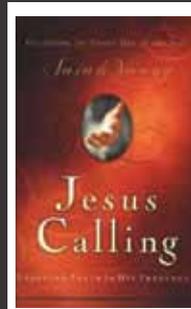
Consider the match up for a game to be between team mascots and determine the winner based on the stronger of the two. For example: If Cincy's Bearcat was up against UConn's Huskey, which animal would win the fight? Though there's no science involved, this kind of creative guessing will at least give you a method to the Madness.

Finally, once the bracket is done, invite friends over to cheer on your choices. Display everyone's picks on the wall throughout the tourney and dress in school colors to show your spirit. Need some ideas? Watch the next Duke home game for the ultimate in fan fashion.



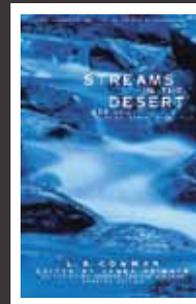
## WE LIKE Devotionals

Making time for a morning devotional can set the tone for your whole day. Here are three of our favorites to help you get started.



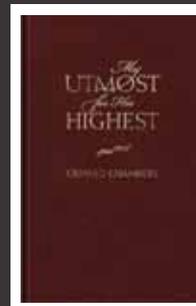
### JESUS CALLING: ENJOYING PEACE IN HIS PRESENCE

by Sarah Young  
What makes this popular devotional unique is that it's written from the perspective of Jesus, inspired by the author's own prayer journals. Daily entries remind us that trust, gratitude, and constant communion are pathways to true joy. Each message aims to draw us closer to Christ and to find the peace that comes only from nearness to Him.



### STREAMS IN THE DESERT: 366 DAILY DEVOTIONAL READINGS

by L.B. Cowman  
This perennial best-seller is a collection of writings from well-known Christians throughout history. Its enduring power stems from beautiful prose firmly entrenched in the truths of Scripture, offering Christ's strength, hope, and comfort in the midst of any circumstance.



### MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST

by Oswald Chambers  
The theme throughout this classic devotional is that our lives should be entirely hidden with Christ in God. The compilation of messages came from

talks Oswald Chambers gave as a teacher at the Bible Training College in London and as chaplain to Allied troops in Egypt. Daily entries call attention to God's holiness, inspiring reverence and worship with each reading.