



Devotional & Article Writing Starters

Topic: "Winter Sports"

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Take the ideas and build upon them to make them your own. Add in your own points, illustrations, explanations, and relating Bible verses.

Beyond the Bunny Slope

Even if you don't ski, you probably have heard of a "bunny slope". It's the small hills on the ski slopes where beginners practice skiing.

- As Christians, we must learn to go *beyond* the "bunny slope" so to speak.
- We must learn to practice our Christianity and grow and progress to be more like Christ.
- We must learn to go beyond just taking in "milk". Newborns desire the "milk". (1 Peter 2:2)
- We must grow out of that. We need meat.
- We must learn to get our feet steady in the snow of our faith.
- We must learn to step out in faith and see what God can do.

- Look at the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11. See what all can be accomplished by getting off the "bunny slope" and conquering higher goals.
- In the ski world, a "black diamond" slope is the steepest and most dangerous. Are there some *black diamond* "slopes" in your life that you have been avoiding? Practice your faith on the *bunny slope*, but after a while you have to try more for Christ.
 - Step out in faith.
 - Get your bearings.
 - Look ahead to goal.
 - Allow God to hold you.
 - Sail!!

Where is the Ski Lift When You Need One?

- Ever feel like you have been left in the valley of cold and snow and can't find your way up?
- Life doesn't always bring the ski lift along for you to jump on and get carried. Sometimes God wants us to do some work. He wants us to exercise our faith to get to the mountaintop.
- There will be times where there is going to be some trudging upward, slipping down, pulling ourselves back up, and feeling the cold hit our souls on the way. It just happens.
- We just must remember that we can rely on the Lord to help us trudge up those hills in life from those low valleys.
- We must allow the Lord to warm our hearts with His love.
- The more we exercise the love of Christ in our lives to others, the warmer we become and the nicer we become (kind of like the Grinch).

Blindness on the Slopes of Life

- A good skier or anyone that spends a good deal of time in the snow knows to watch out for snow blindness. All that expanse of snow can reflect UV rays that can damage our eyes.
- Most skiers wear tight fitting sunglasses or special goggles, so they don't get affected by all those UV rays.
- What about us as Christians? How do we protect our eyes?
- Sin and the temptation of it has a way of causing us some temporary blindness. And if we let it, it will affect us.
- We must put some safeguards in place. We must put those things in place that will protect us from temptation, such as prayer, Bible reading, and all those things that help us stay healthy as a Christian.
 - Philippians 2:8-9
 - Galatians 2:20
- From what I've read about snow blindness is that the damage can be done even before you have symptoms of it. That's the way with sin too. When we give in as Christians and let our guards down, it allows sin to creep in and pretty soon we are caught up in things that don't reflect Christ.
- We must use protection as we ski down those slopes of life! The glimmer of the world will catch our eye and pretty soon we are dealing with a case of *sin* blindness.
 - Ephesians 6 (armor)
 - 1 Peter 5:8

Permission Details for “Starters” & Writing Prompts:

You may not reproduce the “starters” or writing prompts as is. You must add and contribute to the content and make your own devotional/article with them before sharing. The end result should be your own thoughts done with your own words. The “starters” and writing prompts are offered as an outline/skeleton base to build upon with your own writing on top of the “starter”. Think of them as a “starter” for bread. Your loaf will always turn out a little differently even if others use the same starter as you. Be creative and bake your own loaf!