IHL Devotionals 2026-27 | Game 1

*This year's devotionals focus on the book of **Mark**. Next week starts with Mark 1.*

*Participation in devotionals is encouraged but not mandatory. Feel free to speak up, ask questions, and share lessons from your own lives and faith journeys. This is a safe space. You are encouraged to **follow along in your own bible** – bring your printed copy, use the app, whatever works best for you.*

Discussion

There's no message for the first week. Spend your locker room time getting to know your new teammates, discussing league basics, passing out jerseys, and getting paperwork signed.

What to talk about in your locker rooms

1. Introduce your team leaders
2. Discuss the basics about the league and set expectations
    - Schedule, playoff format, website (IHLBuffalo.com), social media, etc
    - Make clear what you expect from your group regarding:
        - on-ice conduct
        - participation in devotionals and reading during the week
        - how they should communicate with you about absences or other issues
    - Discuss what makes this league different
        - Devotionals, volunteer opportunities, clean play, etc
        - Encourage everyone to attend devotional regardless of faith background
        - Explain how devotionals work and emphasize confidentiality/safe space
        - Make clear that devo starts 30 minutes before game time
3. Go around the room and have each player introduce himself
    - Hockey side: Position, highest level, how long they've been in the league
    - Faith side: Anything they want to share about their faith journey, if they belong to a church, etc
4. Also make sure you get waivers signed before anyone takes the ice

Closing prayer & prayer requests

Close with a prayer, thanking the Lord for bringing this group of men together, and ask if anyone has a request.

Next week

Please read Mark 1 during the week and be prepared to talk about it at the next game.