

Growing up, two things that has always been hammered into my head is by my parents is family, and God. They always preached at me that I should keep these two things first, before anything else in my life. It was always easy for me to do this not only because they preached it to me all the time, but they showed these things in their actions as well. When it really hit me that they really will put family over everything, including themselves was when they adopted two of my cousins' kids because they were going down the wrong path and got into drugs very bad. It shocked me so much because my parents were literally starting over. They had just raised an 18-year-old and an 11-year-old and they just got a 1-week old baby girl and a 1-year old boy. They put the family over themselves, I had never seen nothing like it in my life. This is one thing that keeps me going, and its why I play basketball so hopefully one day I can help my parents out and pay for things, so they can retire because they have to work a lot longer than they was going to have to because they have more kids now.

Even though my parents played a huge part in my walk with God, there is one person that sticks out more than anyone else. His name is Ryan Meadows. I met Ryan when I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and he was a senior. As soon, as I met him I knew I wanted to be just like him. His work ethic, how he carried himself on and off the court, I even wanted the exact same car he drove. Ryan has taught me a countless amount of life lessons that I carry with me. The first one, "Trust Christ Bro". I have seen Ryan write this saying down in a notebook, now it's all over America on t-shirts. I think that will be the most important one he will ever teach me, but in a close second it has to be to do what God calls you to do. He showed me this by first, wanting to play basketball and he thought that God called him somewhere else. Then, he thought for sure he was

supposed to go into the medical field, but God called him somewhere else. Now he has a Christian brand that is all over America spreading Gods word. He taught me that you can be around the game of basketball and not be like the rest of them. When I need something, I know I can go to him. I have a bracelet on my wrist that says "In Jesus Name I Play" and that's real to me. I hope every time I step on the court I can reflect his image. When people ask me who my role models are, I give them a normal answer like Steph Curry, but before that I will always say Ryan Meadows, no matter where I am at, or how old I am.