

**Archer's
Confidence
by
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**“Mom, hurry up or I’ll be late for my first archery practice!” said Kiley.
“Hold on! Hold on!” said Mom. “Okay let’s go.”**

As soon as they got there Kiley ran in the gym as Mom backed up the car.

“Hi! I’m Kiley!” said Kiley.

“Hi! I’m your coach. How about you go sit down? We will start in five minutes,” said the coach.

“Okay!” said Kiley nervously. Kiley sat down.

“Hi! I’m Emma!” said the girl sitting beside Kiley.

“Hi! I’m Kiley!” said Kiley.

“What grade are you in?” asked Emma.

“Fourth,” said Kiley.

“I’m in fifth,” said Emma.

“Have you been on the team before?” said Kiley.

“Yeah and it is so fun! You will love it!” said Emma.

“What is our coach’s name?” asked Kiley.

“Coach Mike,” said Emma.

“Hello!” bellowed Coach Mike. “Today you are going to try out for the archery team right?!”

“Right!” everyone yelled.

“Now then who knows the 11 steps of archery?” asked Coach Mike. All the fifth graders raised their hand and only one fourth grader raised her hand.

“Kiley!” said Coach Mike.

“Stance, Nock, Set draw hand, Set bow hand, Pre-draw, Draw, Anchor, Aim, Shot set up, Release, and Follow through,” said Kiley.

“Good job!” said Coach Mike. “Now who can demonstrate them?” He called on Emma.

“Like this,” said Emma.

“Good job!” said Coach Mike. After he showed us some more things and tips, it was time to shoot.

“Okay I can do this,” thought Kiley.

“Shoot!” said Coach Mike.

Kiley shot and got a 5, 9, 8, 7, and 4. “Oh no! Now I’ll never make the team,” thought Kiley.

The next day at school, Kiley had a letter on her desk. It said:

Dear Kiley,
Congratulations! You made the team! Be at practice in the school gym on Thursday 4:00-5:30. Bring a snack.

From,
Coach Mike

Kiley could not wait to tell her parents but she did not understand how she got on the team. She had gotten a 33 when she shot! When she got home her big sister, Mom, and Dad were there and proud of her. Even her dog Spot was wagging his tail.

“Hey Kiley. Maybe we could practice together,” suggested Kiley’s big sister Abby.

“That sounds fun!” said Kiley.

“How about tomorrow after school?” asked Abby.

“Okay!” said Kiley.

The next day after school Kiley ran home to find her sister. Her sister already had everything set up. “We are starting right now?!” exclaimed Kiley.

“Of course!” said Abby. “You need to get as much practice as you can.”

“Hey Abby?”

“Yes,” said Abby.

“How did I get on the team if I shot a 33?” asked Kiley.

“Well...,” said Abby. “I bet the coach saw your potential!”

“Maybe,” said Kiley.

“Now let’s get to work because tomorrow is Thursday!” said Abby.

The next day Abby was going to drive Kiley to school. “Kiley, where is your bow and snack?”

“Oh, I quit,” said Kiley.

Abby had a puzzled look on her face so Kiley explained. “I am horrible at archery. I can’t do it.”

“Yes you can!” said Abby. “You just started.”

“But I’ll never be as good as you,” said Kiley. Then she started to cry.

“Kiley it’s okay. When I first started I was horrible. I did not even make it onto the elementary archery team,” said Abby.

“Really?” asked Kiley wiping away her tears.

“Really,” said Abby. “Have confidence in yourself.”

“Okay,” said Kiley. “I’ll go get my bow and a pack of Sun Chips!”

“That’s it!” said Abby.

“I can do this!” thought Kiley.

When Kiley got home she said, “Guess what!”

“What?” asked Abby.

“I got a 36!” shouted Kiley.

“Great!” said Abby. “Hey I think I know something that can help you.”

“What?’ asked Kiley curiously.

**“Say the verse: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13.”**

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