

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 1

Be an Example

Be an Example

The objective is the goal or main teaching point of this week's study. If you convey one thing to your players, make it this.

Read this passage aloud to the kids, as it will be the focus of this week's study. Each week's memory verse will be in bold.

Our lessons for our older age groups are designed to be more discussion-based. This section is for the coach to read ahead of time so that he/she understands the goal of the discussion and is able to direct the conversation.

Objective This lesson will teach the players that, even at a young age, they can have their own walk with the Lord and be an example to others of what following Christ looks like.

Scripture Passage:

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

Coaches Guide

In today's verse, the apostle Paul writes to Timothy, a young man who was pastoring a church. As a pastor, Timothy had the responsibility to lead people in the faith. Some of them were much older than him, and that would be an intimidating challenge. But Paul encourages him not to let anyone look down on him for his youth. Even though he was young, God wanted to use him in a powerful way. The same is true for your team.

Living for Jesus is not just for adults. He invites all people, young and old, to have a walk with Him. Some players on this team might have Christian parents and have been hearing about Jesus their whole lives. But having believing parents and going to church doesn't make you a Christian. You must choose to follow Jesus for yourself. Others may be new to Christianity, and they too have the opportunity to give their lives to the Lord. Jesus wants to have a relationship with all of us. That looks like putting your faith in Him, giving Him your whole life, spending time with Him in the Bible, prayer, and at church, and obeying His commands.

Paul told Timothy to lead his congregation not just by teaching them as their pastor, but by setting an example in the way he lived his life. The same way, young people can not only walk with the Lord on their own, but can be an example to others of what living for Jesus looks like. Our verse lists several areas of life (word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, and purity) where we can model Christianity to others. We will look at each of these in our devotions this season.

Team discussion gives questions to ask your team in order to discuss today's topic. Use the information from the coaches guide to steer the conversation toward the biblical truth.

"On the Court" gives some in-game situations where today's lesson can be applied, while "Off the Court" gives examples from everyday life. Encourage them to do the things you listed during the game today.

These are some final notes/goals to accomplish this week. These are not meant to be read, but are instructions for the coach.

Team Discussion

1. Has anyone ever looked down on you because you were young? What happened? How did you feel?
2. Do you think that young people are able to follow the Lord in the same way that adults can? Why or why not?
3. What does it look like for a young person to walk with the Lord?
4. Have you chosen to follow Jesus? What does your walk with the Lord look like?
5. What do you think it means to be an example "in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity"? What are some ways that you can be an example to other believers? Do you feel like you need to improve on any of the areas listed in our verse?

On the Court

- Some of the other players or spectators in our league might not be believers. Set an example of what a follower of Jesus looks like, both on and off the court.
- When your teammates or those around you are doing something they shouldn't, the best thing you can do is be an example to them by saying or doing what's right.

Off the Court

- You are never too young to have your own walk with the Lord. You can do that through spending time with Him in His Word and prayer, going to church, and seeking to obey Him in your daily life.
- In your schools, neighborhoods, sports teams, and homes, live your life according to God's Word to be a godly example to the unbelievers around you.

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize 1 Timothy 4:12 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week. Whoever learns the verse for next week will receive a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Since it's the first week, make sure that all the players learn each other's names and get to know one another.
3. You're never too young to make the decision to walk with the Lord. If any players on your team want to trust in Christ and make their faith their own, give them the opportunity to do so today.