

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 1

Chosen People

Chosen People

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 kids that Christians are God's chosen, beloved people, and that He wants us as His people to be holy.

Scripture Passage:

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering."

Colossians 3:12

Coaches Guide

Today's verse uses an interesting phrase to refer to believers: "the elect of God." The Bible uses the term "elect" to refer to those God has chosen to be His special people. If you have put your faith in Jesus, you are part of "the elect of God," which means that God chose you. Isn't that incredible news? He wants you to be part of His chosen people!

After calling us the elect of God, our verse describes what God's people should be like: "holy and beloved." Being holy means being pure and set apart from the world. God didn't save us so that we could just stay the way we were. He chose us for a purpose, so we can be different and do what's right and pleasing to Him. Yet we are also beloved, meaning that no matter what we do or how many mistakes we make, God will always love us. In fact, His love for us is the reason He chose us to be His "elect."

Our verse then shows us how to be holy by listing five things that should be part of every Christian's life. First, God's people should have "tender mercies," also known as compassion. Compassion means seeing those who are in need and helping them, even if it requires sacrifice. Next is kindness, or doing things that are good to bless others. Humility is thinking of others above yourself. Meekness means being gentle and keeping yourself under control. Finally, longsuffering means continuing to do what's right, even when it's tough and you want to give up. Living this way makes God's people different from the world around us, giving us an opportunity to show the world what God is like.

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. What do you think the phrase "the elect of God" means? Why is it good news that we are the elect of God?
2. Our verse tells us that God's chosen people are holy and beloved. What do these two words mean? Why is it important to know this?
3. The rest of the verse lists characteristics that should be part of the holy Christian life. What do each of these things mean?
4. Does this list of things our verse tells us to "put on" describe your life? Which of these things do you think you need to work on?
5. How would doing these things make God's people different from the people around us? Why is that important?

On the Court

- Be humble when you play. Don't boast when you play well, but instead give the glory to God and acknowledge the skills of others.
- You may feel that the other team isn't playing fairly or the refs keep making bad calls. Having longsuffering means continuing to do what's right even in these tough situations.
- Even when you're playing hard and competing, you must still be kind in your words and actions to the other team.

Off the Court

- If you want to be a part of God's chosen people but have never asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, you can do that today.
- Praying for someone going through a hard time or doing yardwork for an elderly neighbor are two of the many ways to help those in need and show mercy and compassion.
- Go out of your way to do something helpful for someone who is difficult to be kind to.

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:12 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. If anyone has never asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, invite them to do that and become part of God's people today.