

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 1

Hungry for Righteousness

Hungry for Righteousness

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 believers must desire and pursue righteousness, and that our righteousness comes from Christ.

Scripture Passage:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."

Matthew 5:6

Coaches Guide

Hunger and thirst change people. When you're hungry enough, all you can think about is food. That hunger creates a single-minded focus. Hungry people don't just wait and hope that food will come to them. They actively pursue it and do whatever it takes to be satisfied. Matthew 5:6 tells us that we need to have that same hunger toward righteousness.

Righteousness describes someone or something that is good, pure, holy, and right before God. In this verse, Jesus promises to bless those who desire and pursue righteousness the way a hungry person seeks food. A Christian's greatest desire should be to become more righteous, which is to say, more like our Savior Jesus. The question is, how badly do you want righteousness? Do you hunger and thirst for it?

Pursuing righteousness is not simply a matter of trying really hard to be good. The Bible teaches that righteousness can't come from within us. Our hearts are sinful, and any attempt to be righteous on our own is sure to fail. But when we hunger for righteousness and go to Jesus, He promises that we will be filled... not with our righteousness, but with His!

If you want to be righteous, you must first trust in Christ as your Lord and Savior and ask Him to fill you with His righteousness. Pray that He will change your heart and make you more like Him. After that, you can look in His Word, where He teaches us how to be righteous, then go and do the things He says. This season, we'll try to do that by studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and applying it to our lives.

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 is the hungriest/thirstiest you've ever been? How does being hungry/thirsty change your behavior?
2. What is righteousness? What does it mean to "hunger and thirst for righteousness"? How should a Christian seeking righteousness be like a hungry person looking for food?
3. Does righteousness come from trying really hard to be good? What happens when we try to be righteous on our own?
4. Where does righteousness come from? How can we pursue it? Where do we learn how to be righteous?
5. If you're honest with yourself, how important to you is pleasing God? Do you "hunger and thirst for righteousness"?

On the Court

- Righteousness is the believer's number one desire. When you play basketball, doing what's right and playing in a way that pleases the Lord should be your top priority.
- Our righteousness comes from Christ, and so only by His help can we play basketball in a way that pleases God. When you struggle with things like self-control when you play, pray that Jesus would help you to be more like Him.

Off the Court

- If you've never accepted Jesus as your Savior, ask Him to change your heart and fill you with His righteousness.
- God's Word teaches us how to live righteously. Read His Word and obey what He says.
- Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness, or are other things more important to you than God? Ask Jesus to give you a hunger for righteousness.

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Matthew 5:6 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. Christ's righteousness is available to anyone who trusts in Him as their Lord and Savior. If anyone on your team has not given their life to Christ, give them the chance to do that today.