

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 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.

Here is where we will discuss today's passage with the players. This can be read off the page or summarized and explained in the coach's own words.

**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

## In the Word

Have you ever been so hungry or thirsty that it made you grumpy? So hungry that all you could think about was food? So hungry that you felt like you couldn't live unless you ate right away? When you're that hungry or thirsty, filling yourself becomes what's most important to you. You are willing to do whatever it takes to get food or water.

In Matthew 5:6, Jesus tells us that we should have that same hunger and thirst, not for food, but for righteousness. Righteousness means being pure, holy, and right before God. In other words, righteousness means being like Jesus! In this verse, Jesus is telling us that we should want to be righteous the way a starving person wants food. He says that the person who looks for righteousness like that is blessed.

So how do we get righteousness? Is Jesus saying that we need to try really, really hard to be good all the time? No, the Bible says that trying to be righteous on your own will never work. That's because every single one of us is born with sin in our hearts. Sin is anything we think, say, or do to disobey God, and sin keeps us from living a life of righteousness that pleases the Lord. If we try to live righteously on our own, we will fail.

But the good news is that in today's verse, Jesus promises to fill those who hunger for righteousness, not with our own righteousness, but with His. You see, although we are sinful, Jesus has no sin. We aren't righteous, but He is! He died on the cross and rose again from the dead so that He could be our Lord and Savior and fill us with His righteousness.

## In the Word (Continued)

All you have to do to receive that righteousness is put your faith in Him and ask Him to forgive your sins and be your Lord and Savior.

Once you put your trust in Jesus, He gives you the power to obey and live for Him. In the Bible, God's holy Word, He teaches us how to be righteous. The Bible shows us how to please God at home, at church, in school, with our friends, and even when we play basketball. As believers, we can learn how to be righteous by studying His Word, and then by God's power we can go out and do the things that it says. This year, we will be learning about one of Jesus' most famous teachings, the Sermon on the Mount. As we study His Word, we will look at several different ways that Jesus teaches us to be righteous, and see how we can obey Him by doing the things that He says.

"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.

### 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 with your family 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.

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

### 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.