

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

10-18's

## Sports Devos

Week 1

*Living Sacrifice*

# Living Sacrifices

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 show that, if we want to live lives that please the Lord, we must first offer our lives to the Lord as living sacrifices.

## Scripture Passage:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

## Coaches Guide

This year, we are going to be doing a study through Romans 12. This chapter comes after Paul spent 11 chapters explaining the what it means to be saved. He went in-depth theologically on how God has delivered us from sin and reconciled us to Himself. Now in Romans 12, Paul switches gears and shows us what it means to live like a Christian, going over practical, everyday Christianity.

To start the chapter, Paul calls us to present ourselves as a living sacrifice. In the Old Testament, the Jewish people had to offer dead animal sacrifices to pay for their sins. However, thanks to Jesus, we don't have to offer animal sacrifices. Instead, we offer ourselves as living sacrifices. Instead of dying for our sins, we live for Jesus. Being a living sacrifice means that we give up our plans and dreams to live for the Lord, devoting our lives completely to Him. It means we seek to be holy and pleasing to God.

Paul says that we should make this commitment “in view of God’s mercy,” the very thing he has just described in the first 11 chapters of Romans. Becoming a living sacrifice is our proper response to the Gospel, or the good news of Jesus Christ, We cannot live the Christian life unless we have first given ourselves to the Lord and received forgiveness for our sins. Therefore, we are going to start this season giving the players an opportunity to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Give a simple invitation to anyone on your team who is not a Christian to accept the Lord. For the rest of the team, encourage them to become living sacrifices!

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 "living sacrifice" in Romans 12:1 means?
2. Why should we make such a big commitment? What has God done to deserve our whole lives?
3. What does being a living sacrifice look like on the basketball court? How about at school? At home? Other places?
4. We can't become living sacrifices unless we are first believers in Jesus Christ. [Present the Gospel message to your team]. Is there anyone here who would like to commit their lives to Jesus Christ?

## On the Court

- Being a living sacrifice means that everything we do is for the Lord, not ourselves. Make your primary goal today not scoring, rebounding, or even winning, but honoring the Lord in all you do on the court. This includes listening to coaches, respecting teammates, opponents, and referees, and responding to both victory and defeat, success and failure with worship for the Lord.

## Off the Court

- Being a living sacrifice means we are not just Christians at church, but everywhere we go. Think of the places you go at least once per week (home, school, activities, etc.) and think of how you can live for Jesus there.
- God wants to see all people become living sacrifices. Think of someone you know who doesn't know Jesus and make a plan to share about Jesus and how you came to know Him with them this week.

## The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Romans 12:1 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. The big emphasis this week is on the Gospel presentation. Give the players an opportunity to make the Lord their Savior today, as teaching them to live for the Lord is pointless if they don't first know Him.
3. Use this first week to learn the names of every player on your team and encourage the players to learn one another's names.