

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 1

Strong in Grace

Strong in Grace

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 look at the importance of being strong in grace by growing in our walks with the Lord.

Scripture Passage:

"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 2:1

Coaches Guide

In sports, we often talk about a player's strengths and weaknesses. One player might be good at defense but struggle to shoot. Another might be a strong dribbler but not so good at rebounding. Part of being a good athlete is identifying your weaknesses and working on them until you get better. The same is true in spiritual matters. In 2 Timothy 2:1, the apostle Paul tells his friend Timothy of an area of his life, and every Christian's life, that needs to become a strength: the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Grace is an underserved gift, and when we talk about the grace that is in Christ Jesus, first and foremost we are referring to Jesus dying on the cross to forgive our sins and rising again to give us eternal life. Grace can also mean the good things He provides for us, such as food, clothes, a home, and all the other blessings He gives us. To be strong in grace then first of all means that we have experienced the grace of God and been saved from our sins by asking Jesus to be Lord and Savior, and then that we are strong in our walks with the Lord.

No athlete, not even the all-time greats, were born great at their sport. They had to learn and practice their skills and invest a lot of time and effort. The same way, when you first become a Christian, you don't have everything figured out. That's why 2 Peter 3:18 tells us to *grow* in grace. Having a strong walk with the Lord requires investing time and hard work. This season, we will be studying 2 Timothy 2 to learn ways we can grow strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

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 does it mean in sports if something is a "strength"? What are some of yours? In 2 Timothy 2:1, what does Paul say one of our strengths should be spiritually?
2. What is "the grace that is in Christ Jesus"? What do you think it means to be "strong in grace"?
3. Have you received the grace of Christ and been forgiven of your sins by Jesus?
4. Do Christians start out "strong in grace"? How can we grow in grace?

On the Court

- Take devotion time seriously. It is a great opportunity to grow in grace.
- Your coaches can be great mentors in helping you grow in grace. Ask them to help you in any areas you need help in with your walk with the Lord.
- The ability to play basketball is a gift of God's grace. Thank Him for allowing you to play.

Off the Court

- To be strong in God's grace, you must first be saved. That means asking Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Lord and Savior.
- Just as practicing will make you a better basketball player, spending time in God's Word and prayer will help you to grow in grace.
- As you continue to grow in your walks with the Lord, you will make mistakes. When that happens, ask Jesus to help you to grow stronger in grace.

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize 2 Timothy 2:1 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. Since it's the first week, make sure that all the players learn each other's names and get to know one another. If we are going to be growing in grace together, we should know each other.
3. Ask the players if they have asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, and invite any who have not to receive His grace and be saved.