

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

What are your strengths in basketball? What are you really good at? Dribbling? Defense? Shooting? To be a good basketball player, you need to be strong at these skills. And how do you get stronger at them? That's right, you practice. Everyone on this team has room to grow in their skills, and at the end of the season, if you practice and work hard, you will be a stronger basketball player than when you started.

Now did you know that the Bible tells us to be strong in something too? That "something" isn't being able to lift heavy weights or shoot a basketball. In 2 Timothy 2:1, a man named Paul (who wrote 2 Timothy) told his friend Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. To know how to be strong in this grace, we must first understand what grace is. Grace means a gift that you don't deserve, so when Paul says, "the grace that is in Christ Jesus," he is talking about all the wonderful things that Jesus has given us and done for us. This includes Him dying on the cross to forgive our sins, promising that we will be with Him forever in Heaven, giving us life everyday, providing us with food, clothes, a home, and a family, and all the other good things He gives us. God gives these things to us not because we deserve them, but because He loves us.

So if that is what grace means, how can we be "strong in grace"? Since grace is something that comes from God, not us, being strong in grace means that our strength comes from Jesus. In other words, in order to be strong in grace we need to be strong in our walks with the Lord and

In the Word (Continued)

depend on Him in everything. Just as we want to become stronger basketball players this season, we want to be strong Christians who trust in and honor the Lord in everything we think, say, and do.

No one is born strong at basketball. Even Michael Jordan had to learn how to dribble and shoot when he was young. The same way, when you first start following Jesus, you aren't always strong in grace. There are probably a lot of things you don't know about Jesus and what it means to follow Him, and that's okay, we will learn together this year. That's why 2 Peter 3:18 says to *grow* in grace. We might not be strong yet, but all of us, even the coaches, should be growing stronger in our faith. We do that by spending time with Jesus, working on our walk with the Lord. This season, we will be studying 2 Timothy 2 in order to learn how to do that.

"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

- Pay attention during devotion time and don't fool around with others. It is a great opportunity to grow in grace.
- Are there things you don't know about the Lord and how to follow Him? Ask your coaches. They would love to help you grow strong in grace.
- The ability to play basketball is a gift of God's grace. Thank Him for allowing you to play.

Off the Court

- 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 we continue to grow in our walks with the Lord, we will all make mistakes. When that happens, ask Jesus to help you to grow stronger in grace.
- Thank God for His grace in giving us many things we don't deserve.

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 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.