

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

# 10-18 year olds

Week 1

*The Lord Your God*

# The Lord Your God

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 students that the Lord our God is the holy, all-powerful Creator, but also our loving Heavenly Father.

## Scripture Passage:

"And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, 'Which commandment is the most important of all?' Jesus answered, 'The most important is, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**" The second is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'"

(Memory Verse, Mark 12:30, in bold)

## Coaches Guide

This season, our theme verses will be Mark 12:30-31, which tell us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Most of the year, we'll be looking at how to do that, but the first two weeks, we're going to lay the foundation by answering two key questions: who is God, and why should I love Him?

This week's focus is on the "who" question: who is God? When most people think of God, they think of His greatness and power. The Bible teaches us that God knows all things, is all-powerful, and is present everywhere in the universe. In His power, He created all things with just His words. God is also holy, meaning that He always does what is good and right. He has never once done, said, or even thought something evil.

Many other religions believe in a god that is powerful, and some also believe that their god is good and holy. What makes our God different from other false gods is that He is not just the all-powerful Creator, but for we who put our trust in Him, He's also our loving heavenly Father. The same God who created and rules the world cares about us and concerns Himself with the details of our lives. He also is the one who guides and disciplines us, because He loves us and wants what's best for us.

This powerful, loving, holy God wants to know and have a personal relationship with every one of us. We can get to know God by reading His Word, and as we spend time with, follow, and obey Him, we will continue to grow in our relationship with Him.

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. Jesus tells us to "love the Lord our God." Who is God? What things do you know about God?
2. What makes the God we read about in the Bible different from the gods that other religions believe in?
3. Does God sound like someone you would want to get to know? What are some ways we can learn more about God and get to know Him more?
4. God reveals Himself to us both in His Word, and in our lives. What is something that has happened in your life that showed or taught you more about who God is?

## On the Court

- God loves and cares for each one of us, which makes every person important and special. Treat one another that way by getting to know each other. Learn the name of each of your teammates and try to find out something unique about them.
- Since God is our Creator and loving Heavenly Father, aim to play basketball in a way that pleases Him.

## Off the Court

- God is our loving Father, who cares about us. Bring your needs to Him and prayer, knowing that He loves to help you.
- To get to know God better, spend time reading and studying His Word. Then try to put the things you read into action by obeying Jesus' commands.

## The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Mark 12:30 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. Ask the players if they have ever chosen to believe in Jesus and ask God to be their Heavenly Father. This is a great opportunity to explain the Gospel and invite the players to ask Jesus to be their Savior.