

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4-9's

Sports Devos

Week 1

You will Love the Lord your God

You will Love 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.

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 To show students that “the Lord our God” is our loving heavenly Father.

Scripture Passage: Mark 12:28-31

“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**)

In the Word

Jesus was the most important person who ever lived (ask your team if they know who Jesus is). A long time ago, someone asked Him what the most important thing for people to do is. His response was that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This season, we are going to be looking at what it means to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (and our neighbor as ourselves).

However, before we start looking at how to love Him, or even why we should love Him, we need to know who He is. There are a lot of ideas out there about who God is. Some are true. (Have the team list a few things they know about God). God is the Creator and King. Most people agree that these things are true. What sets the true God apart is that He is our Father.

Many people believe that God made them and that He rules over them. What makes our God different from other gods is that He loves us as a Father. Notice, God is not just *like* a father, but He *is* our Father if we believe in Jesus Christ. Like a human father, our Heavenly Father God loves us, protects us, and provides for us.

At the same time, also like an earthly father, God has certain expectations for us. Our parents do not let us do whatever we want. This does not mean that they do not love us or want us to enjoy life, but they know that there are some things that are better for us to do and other things

In the Word (Continued)

that are bad for us. The same way, God our Father has a certain way He wants and expects us to live. He is a holy God, which means He always does what is good and right.

We will be learning a lot about how to love God and live the way our Father wants throughout this season, but for this week it is important to remember that He is our loving Father. He created us because he loves us. We are important, special, and valuable to Him.

“On the Field” gives some in-game situations where today’s lesson can be applied, while “Off the Field” gives examples from everyday life. Encourage them to do the things you listed during the game today.

On the Field

- God loves each of us and we are all important to Him. Therefore, every person is important and special. Treat one another that way by getting to know one another. Learn the name of each of your teammates as well as something special about them.
- If your teammates make a mistake or get discouraged today, remind them that they have a heavenly Father who loves them.

Off the Field

- Remember that God loves and cares about you. Even if it feels like you don’t have someone who cares about you, remember that God is your loving Father.
- Look out for family, friends, and neighbors who are sad or discouraged. Let them know that they have a Father in heaven who loves them.

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. God does not promise to be Father to everyone, but only to those who believe in Jesus (John 1:12). Ask the players if they have ever chosen to believe in Jesus and ask God to be their Father. This is a great opportunity to explain the Gospel and invite the players to ask Jesus to be their Savior.
2. Learn and memorize Mark 12:30 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize getting to know one another this week. Encourage the players to learn one another’s names. Let them know that just as God loves each player on this team, so should we.