

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 1

The New Man

The New Man

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 show how we can put off the sins of our old nature ("old man") and put on the "new man" by doing what honors the Lord.

Scripture Passage:

"That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**"

Ephesians 4:22-24 (memory verse, Ephesians 4:24, in **bold**)

In the Word

Think about what you were like three years ago. What are some ways you are different today? In what ways are you similar? (Give time for answers). As we get older we experience change. We get taller, learn new things, make new friends. Maybe you dress or talk differently than you did when you were younger. We all experience change.

In Ephesians 4:22-24, the Bible tells us that Christians experience another kind of change. In fact, according to Paul, the writer of Ephesians, when we become a Christian, we are a completely different person. The person we used to be before is known as the "old man," and who we are after we get saved Paul calls the "new man." The old man was full of sin and looks for ways to make himself happy. The new man wants to obey and follow Jesus and live a holy life.

But wait a second... when we ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, that doesn't mean we stop sinning completely. I know that didn't happen in my life. We still lie, say unkind words, and do other things that God tells us not to do. That's because the old man is still a part of us. It won't be gone until we get to heaven. This is why Paul tells us here to put away the old man and put on the new man. As long as we are on earth, there is a battle between our old desires to live for ourselves and do the sinful things we want and our new desires to follow and obey God.

Have you ever tried to just stop doing bad things? It's hard, right? We might be successful for a minute, an hour, maybe even a whole day.

In the Word (Continued)

But sooner or later, we mess up and sin. We do something we're not supposed to do. What we learn in these verses is that it's not enough simply to try not doing bad stuff. We need to put on the new man by doing the things God wants Christians to do. In other words, we need to replace the bad things we want to do with good things that honor the Lord.

This year, we are going to look at different verses that talk about sins we should stop doing as Christians (which is putting off the old man) and things that honor the Lord that we should do (or putting on the new man). Each study will look at different things our old man wants to do that we should remove from our lives and things that the new man can do to please the Lord instead. Let's see how many different ways we can put off the old man and put on the new man this year.

"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

The old man wants to:

- Play to win even, if it means hurting someone
- Talk badly about the other team
- Be prideful in victory and a bad sport in defeat

Instead, the new man will:

- Play to honor God
- Use words to encourage
- Rejoice in the Lord, no matter the games outcome

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Disobey our parents and teachers
- Try to get the things we want at any cost

Instead, the new man will:

- Find ways to bless our parents and teachers, even without them asking
- Think of others before ourselves and do what's best for 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. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:24 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. Only believers can put on the new man. Present the Gospel to your team and offer a chance for them to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.
3. As this is the first week, spend some time getting to know your players. Make sure each player knows everyone else's name.