

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 2

Forgiving One Another

Forgiving One Another

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 teach the kids that God calls us to bear with and forgive others when they mistreat us.

Scripture Passage:

“Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”

Colossians 3:13

Coaches Guide

Last week, we learned about how we, as God's chosen people, are holy and beloved, and so we should be merciful, kind, humble, meek, and longsuffering. Today, we are going to look at another important part of the Christian life: forgiveness.

Colossians 3:13 continues the thought began in last week's verse by telling us that God's chosen people should bear with others and forgive one another. These are two sides of the same coin, showing us how Christians should respond when others mistreat us. Bearing with others refer to what we should *not* do: retaliate and try to hurt the other person back. Instead, what we *should* do is forgive. That means not holding their sin against them, but rather letting go of any bitterness or anger in our hearts and continuing to show them love and kindness.

The forgiveness God calls us to here is unconditional. It doesn't matter if the other person apologizes, or if you think they deserve your forgiveness, or how many times they've mistreated you. The end of our verse says that the reason we should forgive is because of what Jesus has done for us. He forgave us while we were still sinners who didn't deserve it and had not apologized (Romans 5:8). He forgave us even though we've sinned against Him, not just once or twice, but many times. Since Jesus has forgiven us of so much, who are we to refuse forgiveness to others? When you're struggling to forgive someone, look at Christ's example, and forgive them the way Christ has forgiven you.

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 did we talk about last week ? How are God's people supposed to act? What new commands does today's verse give?
2. What does it mean to bear with one another? What does it mean to forgive one another? How are they related?
3. When are we supposed to forgive? Only if the other person apologizes? Only after the first time they wrong you? Only if we feel they've earned or deserve our forgiveness? What is "unconditional forgiveness"?
4. What reason does our verse give for why we should forgive? How does Christ's example show us how to forgive?
5. Have you ever had a hard time forgiving someone who mistreated you? Why was it difficult? What did you do?

On the Court

- Sometimes in the heat of the moment during a basketball game, we say or do things we shouldn't. If another player does that to you, don't try to get even. Forgive them, even if they never apologize.
- Referees will make mistakes, and we should not hold that against them, but forgive them.
- If the other team commits a hard foul, don't try to get back at them. Forgive!

Off the Court

- There may be someone who is always getting on your nerves. The Bible says we should forgive that person not just once or twice, but every time.
- Are you holding on to anger or bitterness against someone in your heart? Let it go and forgive that person.
- When forgiving someone is hard, remember how Jesus forgave you, and show that same forgiveness to others.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Colossians 3:12, "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:13 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Challenge players who are upset with someone, whether an opponent, referee, or someone else, to forgive that person.