

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

Imagine that you're playing basketball, when you notice that one of the other players is wearing a backpack filled with rocks. That would be ridiculous! The rocks would slow them down and make it harder for them to play. But what you may not realize is that we are often like that player with the bag of rocks. Every day, many of us carry around something that weighs us down and makes it harder for us to live our lives: anger and unforgiveness against people who have mistreated us. In today's verse, we will see how we can be free of that burden.

Remember that in last week's study, we learned about how we are God's chosen people, and as His people, God wants us to live in certain ways. Colossians 3:13 tells us how God's people should respond when others treat us badly: bear with and forgive the person who wrongs you. Bearing with others means that when a person does something unkind, annoying, or hurtful to us, we should be patient with them and not treat them the way that they are treating us. Instead, God tells us to forgive. Forgiveness isn't just letting someone get away with mistreating you and not hurting them back. Forgiveness means no longer holding a person's sin against them, but rather continuing to treat them as God wants.

So what would this look like? Say someone was lying and saying unkind things about you to your friends. Bearing with that person means not responding with lies or unkind words about that person. Instead, you should forgive them, letting go of any anger or bitterness you may have

In the Word (Continued)

toward them in your heart, and treat them the way God wants you to treat them, with love and kindness.

It's important to notice that this verse doesn't mention whether the person who mistreated you is sorry. Hopefully they will apologize, but even if they don't, God still wants you to bear with and forgive them. It's difficult to forgive those who've hurt you, and it's even harder when that person doesn't apologize, but that's why the end of our verse is so important. We don't bear with and forgive others because they apologize or earn our forgiveness. We forgive others because Jesus has forgiven us of so much more. He didn't just forgive one or two of our sins, but all of them. If He can forgive us of so much, then it's only right that we should forgive others.

"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

- 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 pushes you, 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.

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. 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. In today's game, challenge players who are upset with someone, whether an opponent, referee, or someone else, to forgive that person.