

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 2

Peacemakers

Peacemakers

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 how to be peacemakers and show them why we should want peace.

Scripture Passage:

"Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God."

Matthew 5:9

Coaches Guide

We all know what it's like to be in a fight with a loved one. We want peace with that person, but pride, unforgiveness, or selfishness can hold us back. God desires for us, His children, to be at peace with one another, and in Matthew 5:9, Jesus says that peacemakers are blessed.

Notice that the verse doesn't say, "Blessed are the *peaceful*." A peacemaker is not just someone who doesn't get into fights, but a person who works to create peace. A peacemaker is active, not passive, in ending disagreements and preventing potential fights in their own lives, and even works to keep the peace between others. Peacemakers don't wait for the other person to apologize. They make things right, even if there's a cost to them or the other person is completely in the wrong.

Being a peacemaker isn't easy. Sometimes, it means swallowing your pride and apologizing. Other times, you may have to make peace with someone who's wrong but won't admit it or say they're sorry. You may have to make sacrifices or give the other person the better end of the deal in order to end the argument. But peacemakers know that peace is better and sweeter than being right or getting what's best for themselves, and so they make peace, no matter what it entails.

Not only is making peace its own reward, but our verse has an awesome promise for peacemakers: they get to be called sons (and daughters) of God! Our God loves peace, and so we should do our best to make peace, especially with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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's the biggest fight you've even been in with friends or family? How did it make you feel? How did it end?
2. What do you think a "peacemaker" is? What does it take to be a peacemaker?
3. What are some challenges to making peace? Have you ever found it difficult to make peace when you were in a fight? Why was it difficult?
4. Is it better to have peace, or to be right/win an argument? Why do you think that?
5. What are the benefits of being a peacemaker? What promise does this verse make to peacemakers?

On the Court

- Teams are at their best when there is unity. Work to make peace with any teammates you may have a disagreement with.
- Don't allow division or fighting between you and the other team, even if they are fouling, talking trash, or breaking the rules.
- If there is a fight between you and someone else, don't wait for them to admit their faults. Apologize and make things right.

Off the Court

- Being a peacemaker doesn't just mean ending fights, but avoiding them before they start. Don't do something if you know it is likely to cause an argument or make someone upset.
- Are you in a fight with someone now? Apologize and make things right, even if the other person doesn't say they're sorry.
- If you see others fighting, see what you can do to make peace.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 5:9 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Competitive sports is an environment where division and fighting are common. Show the kids that making peace, and thus obeying the Lord, is more important than anything in the game of basketball.