

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 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.

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 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

## In the Word

Who here has ever been in a fight with a close friend or a family member? Did it feel good to be fighting with them? None of us like to be in a fight, but sometimes, it can be hard to end an argument. Maybe you both think you're right, or you're waiting for the other person to apologize. But God doesn't want us to fight. He wants us to have peace with others, which is why Jesus says in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

A peacemaker is someone who works to end fights and make peace. Whenever there is a disagreement, peacemakers don't just sit around and wait for the other person to apologize. They do whatever they can to make things right. Peacemakers also try to prevent fights before they begin by avoiding doing things that could make others upset. They may even try to help settle fights between others.

Now being a peacemaker is hard. Sometimes, you will have to admit you're wrong and apologize to the other person. Other times, you may have to forgive someone who never says they're sorry. You might have to let someone else have things their way or give up something you wanted in order to have peace, and the solution might not seem fair to you.

When making peace isn't easy, peacemakers remember something important: having peace is better than being right or getting what you want. For example, say you and your friend are arguing over the last slice of pizza. Which would you rather have: the pizza, or your friend? Or say you get into a fight over a basketball game. Which is more important: your

## In the Word (Continued)

friend, or winning? We all know the right answer. Eating pizza or winning the game might feel good for a moment, but nothing can replace that friendship you have. Making peace is always the best choice.

But that's not the only reason to make peace. Did you notice the awesome promise our verse gives to peacemakers? They get to be called God's sons and daughters. When God sees you making peace with others, He is proud to call you His child. That's pretty amazing, isn't it?

Every day, there will be many times when we might not agree with someone else. In each of these situations, we have a choice to make. We can either do what we want, no matter what the other person thinks, and possibly get into a fight, or we can make peace with others, whatever it takes. Jesus makes it clear which choice is right, so let's all do our best to be peacemakers.

"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

- 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.

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, 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.