

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 2

You Shall Love

You Shall Love

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 To show the players that we should love the Lord because He first loved us and sent Jesus to die for us.

Scripture Passage:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8 (Memory Verse)

“We love Him because He first loved us.”

1 John 4:19

Coaches Guide

Last week, we looked at who the Lord is. This week, we will see why we should love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. After all, there ought to be a good reason for making such a big commitment.

1 John 4:19 tells us that the reason we should love God is because He first loved us. Of course, in our culture today, the word “love” means so many different things. We can love a spouse, a child, the Eagles, and pizza, but it's not the same kind of love. So then we must ask ourselves, in what way did God love us? Our memory verse answers that question.

Romans 5:8 says Christ died for us. Many of us have heard this message so many times that we forget how incredible it is! We were facing eternal wrath and separation from God. The only cure possible was Christ's death on the cross. He didn't have to do it. He would have been just to let us go through with that judgment, but He didn't. He willingly died for us. The verse before, Romans 5:7, points out that most people wouldn't even die to help a good person. Yet the Bible says that while we were still sinners, enemies of God, Christ died for us. He didn't wait for us to clean up our acts before saving us. He loved us first, even when we were still living in our sins. That's amazing love!

To love someone with your whole being is a huge commitment. We would need a good reason to do such a thing. Jesus' death for us is more than enough reason. For such an amazing sacrifice, He deserves all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

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. God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Why should we do that? Why does He deserve it?
2. 1 John 4:19 says that we love Him because He first loved us. What did God do to show us His love?
3. According to Romans 5:8, did we deserve the love that God showed us in dying for us? Why do you think God loved us even when we were His enemies?
4. Can you think of an example of a time you have seen the love of God in your own life?
5. What are some ways we can love the Lord in response to His incredible love for us?

On the Court

- God loves each one of us. Be sure to show that same love to your teammates through encouraging and respectful words.
- Jesus forgave us even while we were sinning against him. The same way, we should show love to our opponents. Encourage the other team today even while you compete against one another. If someone wrongs you on the court, use that chance to forgive them rather than be angry and try to get back at them.

Off the Court

- Think of someone who is unkind to you. Just as Christ loved us while we were sinners, make it your goal this week to show love to that person, no matter how they treat you.
- The Bible is filled with stories and examples of how God loves us. Take time this week to read the Bible and learn all about God's love.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Mark 12:30, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 5:8 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. The most important thing these kids can do today is love the Lord. Prioritize this over winning and losing today.