

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

Last week, we learned about what Jesus called the greatest commandment (recite Mark 12:30 as a team). Jesus said that we are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. That's a big commitment! I don't know about you, but if someone asks me to love Him with everything I've got, I'm going to want to know why. What has He done to deserve that kind of love? But as we will see today, God is more than worthy of our love because of what He has done for us.

As we saw last week, God is the all-powerful king of the universe. That alone is reason enough for us to listen to Him and do whatever He says, but Jesus asks us to do more than just obey God: He calls us to love Him. God could force us to obey Him as servants, but instead He wants us to love and follow Him as dear children of our Heavenly Father. 1 John 4:19 says that we should love Him because He loved us first.

So what did God do to love us first? He saved us from our sin. Because of our sin (the wrong things we do), we are separated from God. God is perfect, but we are imperfect. Just like you don't put your dirty, stinky laundry in a drawer with your clean clothes, our sin cannot be put together with God's perfection. However, God loves us too much to let us be separated from Him forever, so He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for us to pay the punishment for our sin. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, defeating our sin and death for us. Now if we believe in Him, He will clean our hearts and take away our sin, and we will get to

In the Word (Continued)

live with Him in heaven forever.

What makes Jesus' love for us even more incredible is that, according to our memory verse, He died for us while we were still sinners. We were disobeying God, yet God still saved us! If that isn't love, I don't know what love is. Would you even give your life to help a friend? What about an enemy? Yet that is exactly what Jesus did for us. He gave His life for us even though we didn't deserve it or love Him back. That's some amazing love!

After all that Jesus did for us, it's only right that we would love Him back. Loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength means giving Him our entire lives. But after seeing all that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners, that's the least we can do. The rest of this season, we will look at exactly how we can love God.

"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

- 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 with your family and learn all about God's love.

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, 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.