

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 3

Doers of the Word

Doers of the Word

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 that it's not enough just to know what the Bible says, we actually have to obey it.

Scripture Passage:

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

James 1:22-25 (Memory Verse, James 1:22, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

In basketball, there's a type of player that's known as "all talk." They tell others what a great player they are and trash-talk other people's game, but everyone knows they couldn't hit a shot to save their life. The Bible tells us that sometimes, we can meet Christians who are "all talk" too. James warns us not to be the kind of person that he calls a hearer of the Word of God but not a doer.

Someone who is a hearer but not a doer of God's Word is a person who knows what the Bible says, but the way they live their life doesn't match. They know that the Bible says not to lie, but they aren't honest. They can tell you what the Bible says about obeying parents or respecting authority, but that's not how they live.

Obviously it's a good thing to be a hearer of God's Word, since you need to know what it says in order to do it. The problem is with being a hearer *only*. James compares such a person to a man who looks at himself in a mirror, but then walks away and forgets what he look like. A mirror can show you that there is something in your teeth, but it won't fix the problem for you. The same way, reading the Bible can tell us how God wants us to live, but it's up to us to actually obey what it says.

We need to be both hearers and doers of God's Word. That means that we need to read and study the Bible to know what it tells us to do, and then go out and do it. When we read the Bible, we should think of practical ways to put God's Word into practice, and then go and obey.

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.

Team Discussion

1. What does it mean when a basketball player is “all talk”? Do you know anyone like this? Do you know a Christian whose Christianity is all talk?
2. What does James mean by a “hearer only” and a “doer” of the Word? Is James saying it's wrong to be a hearer?
3. How is the Bible like a mirror according to James 1:22-25?
4. How can we be both hearers *and* doers of God's Word? What are some practical ways we can put God's Word into action?

“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

- During devotion time, don't just try to say that right answers. Actually think about how you can obey God's Word and live it out on the basketball court.
- It's easy to talk about good sportsmanship, but we need to make sure we are actually showing it on the court today.

Off the Court

- The Bible tells us to love one another. Think of a practical way you can show love to someone this week.
- Don't act one way at church and another at home or school. Obey God's Word wherever you go.
- In order to be a doer of God's Word, you first need to know what it says. Spend some time reading the Bible this week and write down a way you can do what it says.

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, James 1:19 (NIV). Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 1:22 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Before the game, make a practical plan of how you want to obey God's Word in the game today. Afterwards, evaluate. Were you “doers” of the Word?