

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 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.

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 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**)

## In the Word

Who on this team knows how many points a basket is worth? Can anyone explain how to shoot a basketball? It's good to know these things, but only knowing how to shoot doesn't help the team score points or win games. You have to be able to do it. In James 1:22-25, we learn that the same is true about the Bible. James tells us not just to be a hearer of the Word of God, but a doer. In other words, it's not enough just to read the Bible and know what it says, we have to do what it tells us to do.

To explain what he means, James compares reading the Bible to looking at a mirror. A mirror can help us to see if our hair is messy or there is something in our teeth, but looking at the mirror won't change those things on its own. We actually have to fix the problem. When we read the Bible but don't do what it says, it's like looking at a mirror and noticing there is something gross in your teeth, but then walking away without fixing the problem and forgetting what you looked like.

Of course, being a hearer of God's Word is not bad. After all, you can't be a doer of the Bible if you don't first hear it and know what it says. The problem is when we are *only* hearers or are forgetful hearers, and unfortunately sometimes that is how we read the Bible. Maybe we read where it says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord," but when we are at home we disobey them or don't do our chores. Or perhaps in Sunday School you hear a lesson on kindness, but then you go home and are mean to your brother or sister. Reading the Bible is really important, but all that

## In the Word (Continued)

reading is wasted if we don't actually do what the Bible says. We can't just be hearers of the Word of God. We need to be doers.

For some of you here today, the Bible is new to you. You might not know what the Bible says or how God wants us to live our lives. If that's you, you first need to become a hearer so that you can be a doer of the Word. For the rest of us, we know what the Bible says. We know that we are supposed to tell the truth, obey our parents, and be kind to others. We just need to actually do it. So think about things in the Bible that are hard for you to do. Maybe it's being nice to your brother or sister, or maybe you have a hard time listening to your teacher and not talking in class. Pray and ask God to help you be a doer of His Word, and then go out and obey His commandments.

"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.
- Most of us know how to play with good sportsmanship, but we need to actually do it. Don't just say now that you are going to respect the other team or the refs, make sure your play today matches.

### Off the Court

- We know the Bible says we should obey our parents, so this week try to do everything they ask you to do.
- 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 with your family 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. Make a "plan of action" with your team this week for how to obey the Bible by thinking of practical ways to be doers of the Word in the game today.