

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 year olds

Week 3

*Good Soldiers of Jesus*

# Good Soldiers of Jesus

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, like a soldier, our number one priority is to please Jesus, our Commanding Officer.

## Scripture Passage:

**“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”**

2 Timothy 2:3-4 (Memory Verse, 2 Timothy 2:3, in **bold**)

## In the Word

This season, we are learning what it means to be strong in grace, just like Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2. To help explain what this means, in today's verses Paul says it's kind of like being a soldier.

Verses 3-4 make two points about what it means to be a soldier. In verse 3, Paul says that soldiers endure hardship. In other words, when things get difficult and times are tough, a soldier doesn't give up. They keep going and doing what they're supposed to do. Then in verse 4, it says that soldiers don't get distracted by the things that regular people are doing. Soldiers can't go to the movies or take a vacation when they have a job to do. They need to focus on obeying their orders.

At the end of verse 4, it gives the reason why soldiers act this way: to please their commander. Every soldier has a commander, which is the person in charge of them. A soldier's number one job is to please that commander. So if the commander asks the soldiers to do something hard, they must obey without giving up. If they would rather do something else, they must listen to the commander instead. In every situation, soldiers must obey their commander.

As Christians, we have a Commander that we must obey: the Lord. Because He is our commander, pleasing Him is our number one job. Sometimes He asks us to do things that are really difficult, or life gets tough and we want to give up and stop following Jesus. For example, Jesus says to love the people who don't love us in return. When someone is

## In the Word (Continued)

being unkind to you and you feel like being mean back, you can't give up. You must endure and continue to obey your Commander.

Other times, there are things we want to do that distract us from following Jesus. Maybe you would rather stay home and play than go to church. Or perhaps you'd prefer to have fun with your friends rather than do something kind for others. But the most important thing for us as Christians is not to please ourselves, but to please Jesus our Commander.

It can be hard to obey Jesus as our Commander, especially when we would rather doing something other than what He asks. But it's important to remember how much Jesus has done for us. He died for us, gave us eternal life, and blesses us every day. Since He's done all that for us, surely we can be good soldiers for Him.

"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

- Sometimes it's harder to obey Jesus when you are losing or the calls don't go your way, but we must continue to live for Him no matter what happens.
- When the other team is showing bad sportsmanship, you might want to be unkind in return. Remember that our Commander tells us to love everyone, even those who are mean to us.

### Off the Court

- God sets our parents as Commanders over us too. Obey them even if they ask you to do something you don't want to do.
- When obeying Jesus is difficult, remember all He's done for you and pray and ask Him for help to obey Him.
- If your friends tempt you to do something you know is wrong, remember that the Lord is your Commander, not them.

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, 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 2 Timothy 2:3 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Have the kids share a situation where it's difficult to please Jesus. Pray and ask God to help them in those situations.