

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 3

*In Conduct*

# In Conduct

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 players to honor the Lord with their actions so that they can bring glory to God.

## Scripture Passage:

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**"

Matthew 5:14-16 (Memory Verse, Matthew 5:16, in **bold**)

## Coaches Guide

This season, we've been studying the different ways we can be an example as believers. Today, we are looking at Christian conduct. As we saw last week with our words, the Bible has a lot to say about our actions. God wants us to have integrity, be honest, respect authority, treat others with kindness, and more. It's not enough to say that we are Christians. Our actions need to match.

In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus says that believers are the light of the world, showing the world what it means to be a Christian with our actions. Just as light shouldn't be hidden, but put on display for all to see, our faith must not be hidden from others. People should see us living for the Lord wherever we go. We can't live one way at church and another at school, at home, or in our neighborhoods, or act spiritual around our Christian friends and then be worldly around unbelievers. Wherever we go, we represent Christ with our actions, and so we should live in a way that's honoring to the Lord.

How we live affects not just the way that others see us, but how they see God—either for good or for bad. When we treat others with love and kindness and are full of joy and peace, it shows that we serve a good, kind, loving God, and unbelievers will notice a difference. Our good works will make them curious, and they might ask why we live this way. This gives us an opportunity to give glory to God, and may even lead to someone becoming a Christian.

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. If someone who didn't know you watched the way you lived your life, could they tell that you are a Christian? Why or why not?
2. What does the word "conduct" mean? What do you think it mean to "act like a Christian"? How does the Bible teach us to act?
3. How are our lives like light, according to Matthew 5:14-16?
4. Do you live differently depending on where you are (church, home, school, neighborhood, basketball) or who you are around? Do you ever try to "hide" your faith from certain people?
5. Why is it important for Christians to please God with our actions? What might happen if unbelievers see us living ungodly lives? What would happen if they see us living godly lives?

## On the Court

- Remember, how you treat those around you at basketball is far more important than how you play today.
- Even if you think you can break a rule and get away with it, don't cheat. Play fair and show integrity.
- Most athletes play to give glory to themselves, or even their team, but you play for a higher purpose. Play to give God glory.

## Off the Court

- If you see someone in need of help or who could use some encouragement, share some of God's love and kindness with them.
- When those around you are doing something that you know is wrong, do what's right, even if you have to do it alone.
- If the people around you notice the way you live and ask you about it, share with them about Jesus and how He's changed your life.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, James 1:26 (NIV), "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 5:16 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize the importance of the way we act and treat people today, both during the game and off the court.