

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 3

Put On Love

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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 use Christ's example to show the kids what real, biblical love is.

Scripture Passage:

"But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."

Colossians 3:14

Coaches Guide

This season, we've been looking at different aspects of the Christian life, such as humility and forgiveness. In today's verse, we read that the most important quality for a Christian to have is love. Love is a word often misused and misunderstood in our world today. Many see love as a "fuzzy feeling" that you have on the inside for someone, or a word for something that you really like. But biblically, love is not just a feeling, but an action. Love is when you truly, deeply care about someone, and you show it by doing what's best for them, no matter what it costs you.

To see the greatest example of love, look at Jesus. While we were dead in our sin, He didn't just sit in heaven and let us suffer. He came to earth and did something about it to save us. He loved us self-sacrificially, to the point of death on the cross. He loved us while we were still sinners who didn't deserve it (Romans 5:8). He did all of this not because He expected us to pay Him back, but because of His love for us. We follow in His example when we love actively, self-sacrificially, unconditionally, and without asking for anything in return.

Our verse calls love, "the bond of perfection." In other words, love is what holds all the other Christian qualities we've talked about together. When Christians are loving one another, we will naturally be humble, kind, compassionate, and forgiving as well. Jesus said the world will know that we're His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:35), so let's love each other the way Jesus loved us.

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. What are some of the qualities of a Christian that we've talked about this season? According to Colossians 3:14, what's the most important trait for a Christian to have?
2. What do most people today think the word "love" means? What do you think it means? What does the Bible say love is?
3. What is the greatest example of love? What are some ways that Jesus demonstrated for us what love truly is?
4. Based on Jesus' example, how well do you love others? What are some ways you can work on loving other people better?
5. What does it mean that love is the "bond of perfection?" Why do you think our verse says love is the most important Christian trait?

On the Court

- Jesus said that the world will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. Think about the way you treat others on the basketball court. Would someone be able to tell you are a Christian by your actions?
- When you get frustrated with other players or the refs on the court today, remember that they are your brothers and sisters in Christ, and that we are called to love one another.

Off the Court

- You could show love to someone who doesn't have many friends by taking time this week to hang out with them.
- Sometimes our family can be the hardest people to love. Show your parents love by doing something for them without being told, or love your siblings by doing what they want rather than what you want.
- Jesus says to love our enemies. How do you treat those who are difficult to love?

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Colossians 3:13, "Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:14 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Have the kids think of something they can do to show love to someone who needs it this week. Ask them about it next week.