

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 3

Salt and Light

Salt and Light

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 to be bold about their faith and live a life that obeys and brings glory to Jesus.

Scripture Passage:

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 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 5:13-16 (Memory verse, Matthew 5:16, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

If we call ourselves Christians, those around us should see it in our actions. In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus talks about our testimony, or the way that unbelievers view us as Christians, by comparing us to salt and light.

Just as salt adds new flavor to food and makes the whole meal taste better, Jesus is saying that our lifestyles as Christians should stand out and makes our homes, schools, teams, and communities better. The way we live, trying to please God, obey the Scriptures, and bless others with our words and actions, should stand in contrast to the world around us. We shouldn't compromise our faith and join in the sins of unbelievers. Otherwise, we are like salt without any flavor—completely useless!

Light helps people to see, but only if it's out in the open. It's no use having a candle or flashlight in the dark if your light is covered. The same way, Christians should be that "light" to help others to see God and know what He is like. In order to do that, we must live according to God's Word and be open and public about our faith. When we go along with the crowd or are ashamed to admit we're Christians, we're hiding our light. But when we boldly proclaim the name of Christ and live the way He tells us to live, we're letting our light shine so that others can see and know Jesus.

When we live as salt and light, confidently proclaiming our faith and living for the Lord, others will take notice. They'll see the difference that God makes in our lives, which brings Him glory, and our verse says that it may even make them interested in becoming Christians themselves.

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 kind of reputation do you have? When other people think of you, what are the first things to come to mind?
2. In what ways should Christians be similar to salt and light? Why do you think Jesus compares us to those two things? How do they help us understand how Jesus wants us to live?
3. Are people able to tell that you are a Christian by the way you live your life? In what ways is your lifestyle different than that of your non-Christian friends or family?
4. Are you ever afraid to admit you're a Christian, stand up for your faith, or do the right thing when you are around unbelievers? Why?
5. How can you be salt and light in your home, school, or neighborhood?

On the Court

- If your teammates are doing something that is wrong, don't follow the crowd. Obey Jesus, even if you have to do it alone.
- If you play basketball with non-believers, don't hide your faith. Be bold about Jesus and look for opportunities to talk to others about Him.
- In sports, athletes often play to bring glory to themselves or their team, but we play with a higher purpose. Play to bring glory to the Lord.

Off the Court

- Being salt and light means that people should see a difference between you and unbelievers. Live by God's Word, not by what others are doing.
- Don't just act like a Christian in church or at home. Follow Jesus, no matter who's around, and don't be ashamed to call yourself a Christian.
- When others notice a difference in your life, use it as an opportunity to talk to share your faith with them.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God." 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. Have the players think of an unbelieving friend or family member. Think of ways that they can be salt and light to that person.