

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 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.

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 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**)

## In the Word

When people hear your name, what do they think of? Do you know you as the funny guy, the cool girl, the athlete? As believers, one thing we all should want to be known for is our faith in Christ. In today's verses, Jesus explains this idea by telling Christians to be like salt and light.

When there is salt on your meal, you notice a difference. People add salt to their food to make it taste better. Jesus says in Matthew 5:13 that Christians should be like salt, different from the unbelieving world around us. When we obey Jesus and follow His Word, it makes our homes, schools, and the communities around us better. We should live to please God and bless others, not selfishly seek the things that we want. We must not follow the crowd and do what everyone else is doing by joining in with the sins of our non-Christian friends and family. If we do, we become like salt with no flavor—completely useless!

Light helps people to see, but in order to be helpful, you have to put that light out in the open. If you're in a dark room and have a flashlight or candle, it's no help putting that light under a cover. You want to put it where it will be seen, so it can shine and light up the whole room. As Christians, we need to have the same attitude about our faith. Our lives should be the "light" that helps others to see who Jesus is and what He is like, and that light needs to be out in the open for our unbelieving friends to see. They should know that we are Christians because we boldly talk about Jesus and live according to His Word.

## In the Word (Continued)

When we are salt and light, being bold and open about our faith and obeying the Bible with our words and actions, other people are going to notice. They will see a difference between us and unbelievers, and that could make them curious. They might ask, “Why do you treat people with kindness, even when others don’t? Why do you listen to your parents, even if they aren’t watching? Why is pleasing God and doing what He says more important to you than doing what you want?” When this happens, our memory verse says that we have a chance to bring God glory. This is a golden opportunity to share your faith with others. And when you tell them about Jesus, who knows what could happen? They may even want to become Christians themselves! So be salt and light, be bold about sharing your faith, and live in a way that’s different from the world and that brings glory to God.

“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

- 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.

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, 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.