

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 3

With All Your Heart

With All Your Heart

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 To show the players that the sin in our hearts is the greatest obstacle to loving the Lord.

Scripture Passage:

**“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.”**

Psalm 51:10 (Memory Verse)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9

Coaches Guide

The next four weeks, we will see how to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Today we will look at the heart. The heart refers to who we are on the inside. In today's culture, people believe that our hearts are good and always right. Movies and motivational speakers tell us to follow our hearts and pursue our innermost desires in order to find true happiness, but Scripture tells a different story.

The Bible says that our hearts have a problem: sin. Jeremiah 17:9 describes the heart as wicked and deceitful. We can't trust our heart's desires, because they are selfish and naturally drawn to what is wrong. That's why, when someone hurts us or says something unkind, our first reaction is often to get back at them. Our hearts seek whatever will make us feel good in the moment, but these desires often lead us to sin and hurt ourselves and others. Even when we try to do what's right, the sin in our hearts keeps us from obeying and pleasing God.

On our own, we can't fix the sin in our hearts. We need God's help. David, who wrote today's memory verse, was well aware of his own sinfulness, which is why in Psalm 51:10, He asks God for a clean heart. Notice that He doesn't ask God to cleanse his sinful heart, but to give him a new, clean one. When we offer God our hearts, committing to follow Him rather than please ourselves and satisfy our own desires, He promises to create in us that new, clean heart and give us the power to obey Him. This is what it means to love the Lord with all your heart.

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. Many people today say that you should follow your heart, and your heart will always lead you in the right way. Do you think this is good advice? Why or why not?
2. Are people naturally good or bad on the inside?
3. When someone hurts you or says unkind things about you, what is your first reaction? What does your heart want to do? Why do you think that is? What is the problem with our hearts?
4. What does David ask for in Psalm 51:10? How can we fix the problem of our sinful hearts? Can we do it on our own?
5. How can you love the Lord with all your heart?

On the Court

- When an opponent pushes or trips you, your natural response may be to want to push them back, but instead you should use self-control.
- When the referee makes a call you don't agree with, you might want to argue and complain. Instead, make sure you speak respectfully to the refs.

Off the Court

- If someone says something unkind about you, resist the temptation to try to get back by saying something mean back.
- Giving God your heart means making what He wants from you more important than pleasing yourself.
- If there is a sin that you struggle with, pray each day that the Lord would give you the strength to overcome that sin.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Psalm 51:10 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Make it a point that your team will exhibit self-control today and honor God no matter what happens. Before the game, pray that Jesus would give you the strength to love Him with all your heart.