

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

Now that we've learned about who God is and why we should love Him, today we'll look at the first way we are to love God, which is with all our hearts. When the Bible says “heart,” it doesn't mean the body part that pumps blood. The heart is who and what we love, what we want, and what we care about. In other words, it's who we are on the inside.

Most people today think that we as humans all have good hearts and will usually do the right thing. But this is not what the Bible teaches. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us that our hearts are wicked and deceitful (lying). That's because they are full of sin, and sin is what stops us from loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Sin is any word, thought, or action that breaks God's laws. Every person has sin in their hearts, which is why our hearts want to do the wrong thing.

Think about it. When someone hits you, do you want to hit them back, or is it easier to show self-control? When your parent or guardian tells you to clean your rooms, do you usually want to listen or not? We all can admit that our hearts often want to do the wrong thing, and that it is much easier to do what we want than to do what God wants.

This seems like terrible news! We aren't supposed to live in sin, yet our hearts are full of it. And even if we try to do the right thing, so often we fail. This is the problem that King David faced when he wrote today's memory verse. David loved the Lord, but when he looked at his own heart, he saw that it was sinful. That's why he asked the Lord to give him a

In the Word (Continued)

new, clean heart. The good news is that when we go to Jesus, a clean heart is exactly what He gives us.

Last week, we learned that Jesus' death on the cross took away the punishment for our sin. But did you know that Jesus also gives us the power to live for Him today? Just like David did in Psalm 51:10, we can pray and ask Jesus to give us a clean heart inside of us, and He will! This new heart helps us to do what's right, even when it's difficult.

If you want to love the Lord with all your heart, you have a decision to make: will I live for me, me, me, and do the things that make me feel good, even if those things are sinful and hurt other people? Or will I ask Jesus for a new heart and make pleasing God more important than doing what makes me feel happy? Let's all ask Jesus for a clean heart and make loving and obeying Him our number one goal.

"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

- 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.

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, 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.