

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

# 10-18 year olds

Week 4

*The Peace of God*

# The Peace of God

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 the importance of peace in the Body of Christ.

## Scripture Passage:

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

Colossians 3:15

## Coaches Guide

One of the New Testament's favorite metaphors for the Christian community is a body. A body is made up of many parts with different appearances and functions, and they all work together to form one body. The same way, the Church is made up of many people with different gifts, abilities, personalities, and backgrounds, and we all come together to worship and serve God. Paul uses this body imagery in Colossians 3:15.

Our verse tells us that the Body of Christ must be ruled by the peace of God. Just as a body needs all of its parts to work together in order to do its job, we as Christians in the Body of Christ must be at peace with one another. Disharmony in the Church hurts our ability to do what God wants, but when there's peace, we can work together to follow the Lord.

The peace of God doesn't come naturally to us. We have to work hard to be at peace with one another. There are times when Christians will disagree, or accidentally offend each other, or hurt one another. When that happens, we have a choice to make. Will we work to keep the peace of God with one another, or will we allow division to set in?

Letting God's peace rule in our hearts takes work. It requires us to be selfless and think about others' needs and wants, not just our own. We may need to give things up or let others have their way instead of getting what we want. We must forgive when others make mistake, and make things right when we mess up. Doing these things will allow the peace of God rule in our hearts and help us to follow the Lord.

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. Colossians 3:15 calls the Church (the Christian community), "one body." Why do you think Scripture compares Christians to a body?
2. What do "the peace of God" and the idea of Christians being "one body" have to do with each other in today's verse?
3. What do you think the peace of God is? What can you do to create peace in the body of Christ?
4. Are there Christians you know who are difficult to have peace with, or situations when peace with others is hard for you? What can you do to let the peace of God rule in your heart in those situations?

## On the Court

- Even though you're competing against the other team today, they're still your brothers and sisters in Christ. Play hard, but don't let what happens on the court cause division between you and them.
- Your teammates may do things that upset you. Remember that you are all part of the same Body of Christ, and work to keep peace among you.
- Don't forget, the refs are still your fellow believers.

## Off the Court

- If you've done something to hurt or offend another believer, apologize and make things right so that you can have peace with them.
- If another believer has done something to hurt or offend you, forgive them.
- If you have a choice between having things your way and keeping peace with someone else, choose peace.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Colossians 3:14, "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:15 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize the importance of peace and unity in the Body of Christ this week. When one of your players is upset by a teammate, opponent, ref, or spectator, be proactive to make peace.