

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 4

With All Your Soul

With All Your Soul

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 loving the Lord is a full commitment that demands all that we are.

Scripture Passage:

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

Coaches Guide

Today we are looking at loving the Lord with all your soul, with an emphasis on the word “all.” Your soul refers to who you are, so loving God with all your soul means giving Him your whole life. It's making a full commitment to following and loving Him with all that you are.

As we learned earlier this year, because of all that God has done for us, He deserves all our love. Unfortunately, our world is full of things that compete with God for that love. These can include money, possessions, fame, success, sports, grades, entertainment, or even friends and family. The Bible says that whatever we love most and give our time, energy, and resources to is our master. When we make an earthly thing our master rather than the Lord, we are no longer loving God with all our soul.

Sometimes, we try to split our love. We think that we can live for God, but also for worldly things. But Matthew 6:24 warns us that, sooner or later, we will have to make a choice. For example, maybe your friends will ask you to do something that you know is displeasing to God. In that situation, you will have to decide, who is your Master? Is God more important to you, or do you serve a different master?

All of us have areas in our lives where we struggle to put God first and are often tempted to choose worldly things over Him. If you want to grow in your walk with the Lord, ask Him to reveal to you the people and things that are taking God's place in your life and to help you to put Him over everyone and everything else.

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 does the word "soul" mean? What does it mean to love God with all our soul? What level of commitment does Jesus ask of us?
2. What are some things that can compete with God for our love?
3. Is it possible to live for God, and for worldly things? Why or why not? Can you think of a situation when you might have to choose between God and these other things?
4. One way to identify if something has become more important to us than God is to ask ourselves, "If God asked me to give this up, could I do it?" Are there things in your life you would struggle to give up if God asked you to get rid of them? How can God help you to give those things over to Him?

On the Court

- While there is nothing wrong with playing to win, don't let winning the game become more important to you than God. Remember that the character you show on the court matters more than the score of the game.
- Loving God with all your soul means following, obeying, and honoring Him, not only when you're winning and things are good, but also when you are losing or not playing well.

Off the Court

- Think of anything in your life right now that is more important to you than the Lord. Pray and ask Jesus to help you put Him above everything and everyone else in your life.
- Show that Jesus is the most important Person in your life by spending time with Him each day in the Bible and prayer.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 6:24 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Spend some time praying with the players this week that all of us would make the Lord more important than anything or anyone else in our lives.