

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 5

In Spirit

In Spirit

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 about having a good spirit (attitude) behind our words and actions, with the Fruit of the Spirit as our standard.

Scripture Passage:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23 (Memory Verse)

**"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."**

Proverbs 16:32

Coaches Guide

So far this season, we've looked at how to please the Lord in word, conduct, and love. As we continue in 1 Timothy 4:12, we see that God also wants us to be an example "in spirit." When the Bible talks about our spirit, it refers to the attitude of our hearts behind the things we say or do. Sometimes, you can do the right thing, but with the wrong spirit. You might clean your room while grumbling, or say nice things to someone but despise them in your heart. But the Bible says that God cares not just about our words and actions, but also about the spirit we do them with.

So what kind of spirit does God want us to have? One that bears the fruit of His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, as we read in Galatians 5:22-23. The Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control in our lives. When your attitude is full of these traits, you are honoring God with your spirit. In contrast, we displease the Lord when we have a prideful, deceitful, critical, or unkind spirit.

Having control over your spirit takes strength. It's tough to remain humble and selfless, or not to respond in anger when someone upsets you. Proverbs 16:32 says that the person who rules over their own spirit is mightier than a great warrior who conquers a city. On our own, it's impossible to have such control all the time. But for believers, the Bible says we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us, producing His fruit. If you want more of the Holy Spirit, all you have to do is ask the Lord in prayer, and He will give it to you (Luke 11:13).

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. The next way 1 Timothy 4:12 tells us to be an example is "in spirit." What do you think that means? What does "spirit" refer to?
2. Is it possible to say or do something that's right, but still sin with your spirit (attitude)? What are some examples of ways you can have a sinful attitude, even if your words or actions themselves aren't wrong?
3. What do you think a godly spirit looks like? What about an ungodly one? What are examples of good or bad attitudes in everyday life?
4. Look at the list of the Fruit of the Spirit. Do these qualities describe you? Which of these things is the easiest for you? Which is the most difficult?
5. What can you do if you struggle to have a godly attitude?

On the Court

- It can be easy to get prideful in sports when you do well. Stay humble and don't boast in your accomplishments.
- You might not always like what your coach tells you to do, but obey instructions with joy, not with arguing or complaining.
- It's difficult to keep your attitude and anger under control when you are losing, get fouled, or the ref misses a call. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to have peace in those situations.

Off the Court

- Have a good attitude when your parents or teachers ask you to do something, and don't grumble or complain about it.
- Is there someone you struggle to get along with? Pray for the Lord to change your heart and fill you with love and kindness toward that person.
- Have a humble attitude that thinks of others, rather than a prideful attitude that always thinks about yourself.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 1 John 3:16, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Galatians 5:22-23 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Put an emphasis on the attitude that you and your players display today, on and off the court.