

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 5

Kind and Forgiving

Kind and Forgiving

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 show how a godly community is one where believers are kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.

Scripture Passage:

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. **And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**”

Ephesians 4:31-32 (memory verse, Ephesians 4:32, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

Ephesians 4:31-32 describe two different kinds of communities. Verse 31 is a community ruled by the old man. It is defined by bitterness (keeping hate in your heart against someone), wrath, anger, clamor (chaos and shouting), evil speaking, and malice (anger with the intent to hurt someone). This is what unbelieving communities tend to look like, and it leads to constant fighting and divisions.

Verse 32 describes the community of the new man. People in such a community are kind to each other, as they look for ways to bless others rather than please themselves. They are also tenderhearted, meaning compassionate. They consider how others feel in their actions and act in others' best interests. Because each person looks out for others rather than themselves, everyone benefits from having the whole community caring for them. Finally, they forgive each other. People in this community do not allow mistakes or sins by others to stop them from being kind and compassionate, but rather forgive and continue to show kindness.

We all want the community described in verse 32. The problem is that when we are wronged, our natural reaction is bitterness and anger. If we want to have an Ephesians 4:32 community, we need to continue to show kindness and forgive even when others wrong us. This is where the end of verse 32 becomes important. We may feel that the other person is not worthy of our forgiveness, but Jesus forgave us even though we are far less deserving of His forgiveness. A community of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness will make any team, home, church, or school better.

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. Look at the list describing the first community in verse 31 and go over what each of these things means. What would this kind of community look like?
2. What does it mean for a community to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving? Why is it better for everyone to look out for others than for each person to care for himself?
3. Why is it so hard for a community to be like verse 32?
4. Why is the last part of verse 32 so important?

On the Court

The old man wants to:

- Respond to teammates who do or say something that bothers me by yelling at them.
- Hold a grudge against any teammates who wrong to me.

Instead, the new man will:

- Show kindness to teammates who get on my nerves.
- Forgive teammates who are unkind to me.

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Respond in anger when my brother or sister annoys me.
- Make fun of hurt people whom I don't like and hold hate in my heart.

Instead, the new man will:

- Forgive my siblings when they do something wrong to me.
- Show kindness to others, even those I don't get along with.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:29 (NIRV). Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:32 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize the community of your team this week. Before the game, make it your goal to be a team that is kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving. At the end of the game, evaluate how you have done. Having such a community not only pleases the Lord, but will make your team more effective.