

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 5

Prayer

Prayer

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 This lesson will encourage the kids to pray and look at Christ's model in the Lord's Prayer.

Scripture Passage:

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." - Matthew 6:9-13

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." - Matthew 7:7 (Memory Verse)

In the Word

Imagine that the richest man on earth was your father, and you could ask him for whatever you want, whenever you want. What would you ask for? How often would you talk to him? As Christians, we have the ability to talk to someone even greater than that through prayer. Prayer is talking to God, the Almighty Creator of the universe. What an awesome privilege! But many times, we don't use this incredible gift.

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus gives us an example of how to pray. Notice the many different things He says to God. He starts and ends by praising God. He asks for the things He needs (daily bread), forgiveness and the ability to forgive others, freedom from temptation, and protection from Satan. Now Jesus is not telling us that when we pray, we need to use His exact words. Instead, He is giving us an example of the types of things we can pray for. When we pray, we should praise God, thank Him for what He has done for us, admit our sins, pray for forgiveness, and ask Him for the things we need. Not every prayer will include all of those things, but each of them should be a regular part of our prayer lives.

Then in Matthew 7:7, Jesus promises that when we pray, God will answer. When we ask Him our requests, seek Him, and knock on His door, He will give us what we need, we will find Him, and He will open His door to us. Do you need something? Go to God in prayer. God is ready and willing to answer us. We only need to ask.

Now that doesn't mean that when we pray, God will always give us

In the Word (Continued)

exactly what we ask for, as soon as we ask for it. Sometimes He does, but other times God says no to the things we pray for. He also may tell us to wait for our answer. When God doesn't answer right away or do exactly what we asked, that doesn't mean that He doesn't hear our prayers, or that He doesn't care about us, or that our requests are too difficult for Him. Rather, God knows all things, and sometimes what we pray for would not be good for us. But God always answers our prayers, even if it's not what we asked for, and His answers are always what's best for us.

Whether you have been a Christian your whole life or have just recently gotten saved, all of us should want to be better prayers. Prayer is an incredible gift from God and an important part of the Christian life. Do you need something? Ask God! Has the Lord blessed you? Thank Him in prayer! Let's all try to grow in prayer and not waste this precious gift.

"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

- Take advantage of the opportunities this league offers to pray together as a team.
- During the week, pray for your teammates by name. If any of them have prayer requests, remember to pray for them.
- Prayer isn't just about asking for things. If you enjoy basketball, pray to God and thank Him for giving you the opportunity to play.

Off the Court

- Prayer isn't just for church or before meals. Try to spend time alone in prayer every day, even if it's only a few minutes.
- If there is something you've been praying for and God hasn't answered it yet, keep praying. Ask, seek, and knock, and the Lord will answer.
- Ask your friends if they have needs you can pray for—and then remember to pray for them!

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, Matthew 5:44, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 7:7 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Put today's lesson into practice by taking prayer requests and spending extra time in prayer this week.