

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 5

The Hardworking Farmer

The Hardworking Farmer

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 that following Jesus requires hard work and patience, but is worth it in the end.

Scripture Passage:

"The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops."

2 Timothy 2:6

Coaches Guide

The last 2 weeks, we saw how a soldier and an athlete demonstrate what it means to be strong and grace. Today we will look at the example of a farmer. Farmers have a difficult job. They must work long hours doing physical labor in order to grow their crops. If they are lazy or give up, they will end up with nothing, but as our verse says, the hardworking farmer gets rewarded by being the first to enjoy their crops.

The same way, the Christian life is hard work. The Bible asks us to do many difficult things, such as love our enemies, preach the Gospel, and resist temptation. It would be much easier be lazy or give up and not do these things. But both for the farmer and for the Christian, laziness and giving up leave us empty-handed. But when we do the hard work of obeying Christ even when it's difficult, we will be rewarded.

A farmer must also be patient. They don't get crops as soon as they plant their seeds. They have to work hard for months before they enjoy any of the harvest. The same way, our obedience to Christ isn't always rewarded right away. Sometimes you preach the Gospel and they reject it, or you are kind to someone and they don't return the favor. This is because the rewards we get for serving the Lord are not earthly rewards. They are heavenly rewards. God may choose to bless us on earth when we do the right thing, but even when He doesn't, we should be patient and continue to do the right thing. God will reward us in heaven, and heavenly rewards are always worth it.

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. According to our memory verse, what example can we learn from a farmer about how to live the Christian life?
2. What is an example of something difficult the Lord asks us to do in His Word?
3. Do farmers get the reward for their hard work right away? How does that relate to the Christian life? What kind of rewards do Christians get for doing the right thing?
4. Has there been a time in your life when obeying Jesus was difficult or something bad happened to you even though you did the right thing? What did you do?

On the Court

- Sometimes even if you show good sportsmanship, the other team won't act the same way. That is not an excuse to sink down to their level. Continue to do good.
- When your coach tells you to do something, don't be lazy. Work hard and obey so you can please the Lord.

Off the Court

- Maybe you've been sharing your faith with someone for a long time and they won't believe or they make fun of you. Be patient and keep sharing about the Lord with them.
- Obeying your parents can be difficult, but God asks us to do it and will reward our obedience.
- Continue to do what's right even when the people around you are doing what's wrong and trying to get you to do the same.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 2:5, "And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 2 Timothy 2:6 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Being strong in grace means obeying Jesus even when it's difficult. At the end of the game, ask players if there were times in the game when doing the right thing was hard. Ask what they did in those situations.