

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 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.

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 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

## In the Word

Do any of you here want to be a farmer when you grow up? I don't know about you, but I think being a farmer sounds like really hard work! You have to get up early, work all day in the field, and do all kinds of difficult jobs. Why do you think a farmer does all of that? Because they know that at the end of all their hard work, they will have delicious crops and they will be the first ones who get to enjoy them. But if the farmer is lazy and doesn't work hard, there will be no crops to enjoy.

In 2 Timothy 2:6, Paul talks about farmers as another example of what it means to be strong in grace. To grow crops, a farmer must work hard. They do difficult jobs for months before the harvest is ready. If they do what they should, they are rewarded with a many crops, but if they are lazy or give up, they will end up with nothing.

The Christian life is a lot like that. Following Jesus is hard work. In His Word, He commands us to do many difficult things, such as telling other people about Him or doing what's right even when the people around you are not. Sometimes, we might not want to do the things we know God wants us to do and think it would be easier to give up. But to be strong in grace, we can't be lazy and choose the easy way. We need to work hard to obey God so that we can enjoy His rewards.

Following Jesus is also like being a farmer because it takes patience. Farmers don't get to enjoy their crops as soon as they plants the seeds. They have to work for months before they get to enjoy the reward of their

## In the Word (Continued)

work. The same way, we don't always get to enjoy the reward of obeying God right away. For example, sometimes you show kindness to someone and they are mean back to you, or you might share about Jesus with someone and they could make fun of you. The reward for doing these things isn't something we get right away. They are heavenly rewards. When following Jesus gets tough and things don't go our way, we can't quit or give up. We must be patient and continue to do what's right.

Our memory verse says that the hardworking farmer is the first one to enjoy the crops. As we've seen, farming is hard work, but in the end, the crops make it all worth it. Following Jesus is difficult too. It takes hard work and patience, but when we do what's right, we know that God will make it worth it in the end when we get to heaven.

"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

- Sometimes even if you show good sportsmanship, the other team won't treat you the same way. Don't give up. Continue to do the right thing even if the other team doesn't respond with kindness.
- 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 telling someone about Jesus 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.
- When the people around you are doing bad things, it can be hard to keep doing what's right. Don't give up! Keep obeying Jesus.

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, 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.