

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 5

With All Your Mind

With All Your Mind

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 To show the players the importance of loving Jesus with our thoughts and words.

Scripture Passage:

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

Coaches Guide

Having looked at how to love the Lord with all our heart and soul, today we want to study loving Him with all our mind, which refers to our thoughts. While some view what we think as less important than what we say or do, the Scriptures teach that our thoughts affect our words and actions. Luke 6:45 says that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks, meaning that our words come from the things we think about, and so today we will examine what it means to love the Lord with both our thoughts and our words.

Today's memory verse serves as a filter to discern good words and thoughts from bad. Before we think or speak, we should run our thoughts and words through the Philippians 4:8 test: is it true, noble (honorable), right, pure (not sinful), lovely, admirable (worthy of imitation), excellent (high in quality), and praiseworthy? Only thoughts that fit this description are worth thinking about. Only words that pass this test are worth saying.

It might seem like you can't control what you think, that thoughts just pop into your mind out of nowhere. But often, your thoughts are the product of the environments you are in, media you consume, and people you associate with. If you are always watching videos or listening to music with sinful themes, talking to people who use foul language, or taking in mindless entertainment, that will have a negative effect on your thoughts. But when you fill your time with God's Word and fellowship with godly people, your words and thoughts will look more like Philippians 4:8.

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. What do you think it means to love the Lord with all your mind?
2. Do our thoughts matter to God, or does He only care about our words and actions? How are our thoughts connected to words and actions?
3. Go through each of the descriptions in Philippians 4:8. What do these things mean? What does it look like to have words and thoughts that are noble, lovely, admirable, etc.?
4. Is it possible to control the things we think? What sort of things might have a negative impact on our thoughts? What might help us to have more godly thoughts?
5. What kinds of music, entertainment, and friends do you spend time with? What kind of impact do they have on your thoughts?

On the Court

- In basketball, we can be tempted to use our words to trash talk opponents, criticize the refs, and discourage teammates. Instead, use your words to uplift everyone around you.
- Don't get caught up in negative thoughts about teammates, refs, or opponents. Instead, focus on pleasing the Lord in the way you think and play.

Off the Court

- Before you say something, run it through the "Philippians 4:8 test." Ask yourself if your words are honoring to God.
- Think about your media choices. Stop watching or listening to things that cause thoughts that are displeasing to God, and instead look for things that build you up in the Lord.
- Spending time in God's Word will help your mind think about things that are true, pure, and praiseworthy.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 6:24 (NIV), "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 4:8 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Pay attention to speech today. Encourage positive, uplifting words, and stop any negative talk among your team today.