

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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)

In the Word

The last two weeks, we learned what it means to love the Lord with all your heart and all your soul. Today, we are looking at loving Him with all your mind. Your mind is what you use to think, and so loving the Lord with all your mind means making sure that your thoughts please the Lord.

Now some people believe that your thoughts aren't very important, and that as long as your words and actions are good, it doesn't matter what you think. But the Bible says that how we think affects how we act. If we want to follow Jesus, we need to be sure that we please the Lord not only in what we do and say, but also in what we think. And because the Bible teaches us that our words come from our thoughts (Luke 6:45), today we're going to look at pleasing God with our speech as well.

So how do we know which words and thoughts glorify God and which don't? Philippians 4:8 helps us figure that out. In that verse, Paul (the writer of Philippians) tells us to think about things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. While you might not understand all of those words, what Paul is saying is that we should try to think thoughts and speak words that are true, that encourage and build others up, and that point people to Jesus. We should avoid lies, complaining, gossip, discouragement, and other sinful kinds of words and thoughts.

Every day, we face tons of choices between words and thoughts that please the Lord, and ones that don't. Say your parents make something for

In the Word (Continued)

dinner that you don't like. Will you complain, or will you thank them for making you food and praise the Lord for taking care of your needs? Or if you see someone make a mistake and embarrass themselves, will you make fun of them, or encourage them? In your free time, do you take time to think about the Lord, read His Word, pray, and talk about Him with others, or is your mind always on toys, games, friends, and other things like that? If we want to love the Lord with all our mind, we need to make choices that please Him in what we think and say.

Loving the Lord with our thoughts and words won't always be easy. We need God's help. When you are thinking thoughts that don't please the Lord, or you are tempted to say something that is unkind or sinful, pray and ask the Lord to fill you with thoughts and words that honor Him and build others up.

"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

- 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

- When talking to your friends, before you speak, make sure what you are going to say is kind and encouraging.
- Thank the Lord for all the good things He has given you.
- Instead of spending all your time playing with toys and video games or watching TV, take some time to read God's Word with your family to help your mind think about things that are true, pure, and praiseworthy.

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 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.