

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

10-17's

Sports Devos

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

The last couple of weeks have been much more concept-based. We have looked at ideas like sin and total discipleship. Now we get more into the practical, everyday facets of the Christian life. Today we will be looking at thoughts and words. These two are connected, as Luke 6:45 tells us that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. What we think affects what we say.

Our memory verse today then serves as a filter to discern good words and thoughts from bad. Whenever we think or say something, it should go through the Philippians 4:8 test: is it true? Pure? Right? Only thoughts that fit this description are worth thinking about. Only words that pass this test are worth saying.

It is important to emphasize that this is a list of things to aspire to, not a list of things to avoid. All too often, honoring God with our thoughts and speech gets reduced to, "Don't lie, don't gossip, don't complain, don't curse." Avoiding these things is not enough. Paul urges us to strive toward something. We are encouraged and required as Christians to use our minds and lips to encourage, to speak truth, to give thanks, and to worship God.

Obviously, this is something that none of us are perfect at. This is not meant to become a list of rules to divide "good" and "bad" people. Rather, Philippians 4:8 offers us a helpful guide as we seek to honor God with every part of our being.

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 Field" gives some in-game situations where today's lesson can be applied, while "Off the Field" 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. Go through each of the descriptions in Philippians 4:8. What do each of these things mean? What does it look like to have words and thoughts that are noble, lovely, admirable, etc.?
2. Is this just a list of sins to avoid, or are these positive things to seek after? Think about not only things you shouldn't do (lie, gossip, etc.), but things you should think and say.
3. Talk about how your team has been doing in these areas over the past few weeks. What are ways you can improve?

On the Field

- Soccer brings with it the temptation to insult opponents and call names, criticize the refs, and even discourage teammates. Focus on preventing that behavior and calling out those who do it.
- Encouragement blesses everyone in a soccer game. Use your time on the field and especially on the sidelines to say kind words to your teammates, and even to your opponents.

Off the Field

- Lying, unthankfulness, gossip, teasing, and hatred are among the many ways we might struggle with misusing our thoughts and actions. Choose one of these to work on this week and run every thought and word through the "Philippians 4:8 test."
- Not only should we seek to avoid sinful words and thoughts, but we should actively pursue godly ones. Think and talk about things that fit the description of Philippians 4:8.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Mark 8:36. Anyone who can recite it to you will get a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 4:8 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. While you obviously cannot know what your team is thinking, place a special emphasis on speech today. Create an environment of uplifting speech. Warn against and call out any sinful talking.
4. Teach the players the "Philippians 4:8 test": do my thoughts and words reflect what Philippians 4:8 says?