

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 6

Heavenly Treasure

Heavenly Treasure

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 living to please God and earn eternal rewards is better than living for earthly things.

Scripture Passage:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...** No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 (Memory Verse, Matthew 6:20-21, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

In our world today, most people desire to be rich. They think that having the most money, biggest house, nicest cars, and newest electronics will make them happy, and they will do anything they can to get those things. But in Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus warns that these earthly treasures (which He calls "mammon") can provide no lasting happiness because they are temporary. They can be lost, stolen, or destroyed. Instead, Jesus tells us to live for treasures in heaven, which are the rewards God gives to those who obey and follow Him. Unlike earthly treasures, heavenly rewards last forever and can truly satisfy us.

Jesus says that where your treasure is, there your heart will also be. If you spend your life trying to gain treasure on earth, earthly things will become all that you care about. They will distract you from following the Lord, and you will do whatever it takes—even sin—to acquire more of them. But if you seek heavenly treasures, then you will value pleasing the Lord over gaining worldly things and make choices that honor Him.

Some people try to live for both God and earthly things. But verse 24 warns that we can't serve two masters. We all will face situations when the desire to please God and the desire for earthly things will conflict. When that happens, we must decide what truly matters most to us. That doesn't mean getting money or having nice things is wrong, but our desire for these things must not outweigh our desire to please the Lord, and serving Him must come before gaining earthly treasure.

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 are "treasures on earth"? What sort of things do people live for in our world today? What is the problem with living for these things?
2. What are "treasures in heaven"? How do you get heavenly treasure? Which of these two kinds of treasures should we seek? Why?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"? How do the things we value most affect the way we live our lives?
4. Is it possible to both live for God and live for earthly treasure? Why or why not? Does that mean it's wrong to be rich or have nice things?
5. Do you find yourself living more for heavenly treasures, or earthly things? In what ways do you need to put God first in your life?

On the Court

- Basketball and other activities are great, but the Lord must come before anything else in your life.
- Winning a game may feel good for a time and there's nothing wrong with playing to win, but only Christ can give true, lasting joy. Making sure your words and actions please the Lord is the most important thing you can do on the court today.

Off the Court

- Check your heart for anything you may be putting before the Lord: friends, popularity, money, things, etc. Pray and ask the Lord to help you put Him first.
- Do something kind for someone without asking or expecting them to do anything to repay you. Let your reward be in heaven, not here on earth.
- The choices you make have eternal consequences, for good or for bad. Make decisions that will earn eternal rewards.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 6:20-21 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. The heart of this league is always to put the Lord first and basketball second. This week especially, let's emphasize that purpose.