

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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**)

In the Word

What would you rather have: a cool toy that you can have right now, but will break in a couple of weeks, or one million dollars, but you have to wait a year to get it? While the toy might sound nice and you could have it right away, if you chose the money, a year from now you would be glad you waited. In today's verses, we see that we all have a similar choice, but with an even better reward than money in the end if we wait.

Matthew 6:19-21 describes two kinds of treasures. The first kind is called treasures on earth, which are the things people want in this life, things like toys, electronics, money, popularity, and fame. While these things might be nice for a little while, Jesus warns us that they don't last forever. They can be lost, stolen, or destroyed, and so we shouldn't spend our whole lives seeking after them. Instead, He says we should live for heavenly treasures. These are the rewards that God gives to those who obey and follow Him, and they last forever and truly satisfy.

Jesus says that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. In other words, the place we store our treasures, whether that's heaven or earth, will become the place our hearts are focused on. If you live your life storing up treasures on earth, earthly things will become all you care about. You will spend all your time trying to get more money, more toys, more stuff, even if you have to sin in order to get them, and you will ignore your walk with God. While getting earthly treasure may make you happy for a little while, they can provide no lasting joy. But if the goal of

In the Word (Continued)

your life is to earn treasures in heaven, doing what's right and pleasing the Lord will become what's most important to you. In the end, the reward for this kind of life is great: eternal life with Jesus in heaven!

Now some people might think, "Why can't I live for both heavenly and earthly treasures?" In verse 24, Jesus explains that the problem is that you can't serve two masters. Either earthly treasures (which Jesus calls, "mammon") will be what's most important to you, or Jesus will. Each of us has to decide what kind of treasure we want to live for. Now that doesn't mean that having money or nice things is wrong, but our main focus needs to be on pleasing God. We can't let worldly things distract us or become more important to us than Him. Following Jesus could mean missing out on opportunities to gain earthly treasure, but in exchange, we will receive heavenly rewards, which are always worth it in the end.

"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

- 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: toys, money, friends, popularity, 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.

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 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.