

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 6

Humility

Humility

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 show the foolishness of pride and blessings of humility by looking at James 4:6 and 10.

Scripture Passage:

“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble’... **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**”

James 4:6, 10 (Memory Verse, James 4:10, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

This season, we've been looking at God's wisdom in the book of James. We've studied what it means to be quick to listen, a doer of God's Word, not show favoritism, and control our tongues. Today, we are going to learn about pride and humility.

Pride is when you think of yourselves as better than others and want everyone to know it. It can come in the area of academics, sports, music, and more. Pride can lead to boasting and thinking that you don't need help from others, or even God's help. James 4:6 says that God resists the proud, meaning that when we are prideful, God is against us and we can expect problems. Pride causes us to forget that everything we have is from God, alienates the people around us, and leads to trouble when we try to do things in our own strength rather than trusting the Lord.

Humility, on the other hand, means thinking of the Lord and others above ourselves. That doesn't mean denying our abilities or constantly trashing ourselves. Humility isn't a low view of yourself, but a high view of God and others. It means realizing that all we have comes from God, and so we rely on His strength and give Him, not ourselves, the glory for our success (what our memory verse calls humbling ourselves in the sight of the Lord). Humility also treats others as more important than ourselves and seeks to bless them. When we do that, James says that God will give us grace (vs. 6) and lift us up (vs. 10), blessing us far more than we could ever bless ourselves.

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 is pride? What is humility?
2. What does James 4:6 tell us about pride? What are some of the dangers of pride? Has pride ever gotten you into trouble?
3. Does humility mean we go around talking bad about ourselves? What does real humility look like? What does James promise will happen if we are humble?
4. In sports, is it easier to be humble or prideful? Why? What are some areas of life where it is difficult for you to be humble?

On the Court

- Do what's best for the team, not what makes you look best. Pass to open teammates rather than always taking the shots.
- Celebrate team success, not just your individual success.
- When your team makes a good play or wins the game, don't boast. Thank the Lord for His blessings.

Off the Court

- Are you good at school, music, art, dancing, or sports? Don't brag about your ability, but rather thank the Lord for giving you your abilities.
- Don't trust in your own strength to do things. In whatever you do, trust the Lord and ask for Him to help you.
- Instead of boasting about your own strengths, compliment your friends on what they're good at.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, James 3:10. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 4:10 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize the importance first of giving glory to God and second doing what's best for the team today. Basketball is not about making yourself look good, but helping the team as we honor the Lord.