

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 10-18 year olds

Week 6

*In Faith*

# In Faith

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 players that faith means believing and obeying what God says, even when it's difficult.

## Scripture Passage:

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see... **And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**"

Hebrews 11:1, 6 (NIV; Memory Verse, Hebrews 1:6, in **bold**)

## Coaches Guide

Just as we said of love, faith is an important topic in Scripture, and one Christians often talk about, but what is faith? One way to describe it is believing something even if you can't see it. Hebrews 11:1 says faith is "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." That means believing and living like God's Word is true, even if our situation looks impossible to our eyes and trusting the Lord is difficult.

Hebrews 11 is full of stories of men and women who had faith in God despite how things seemed. Abraham and Sarah believed they would have a child, even though they were old. Joshua led Israel in battle against much bigger, stronger enemies. When we face situations where believing or obeying God is difficult, we can learn from these examples.

Hebrews 11:6 says that faith is necessary in order to please God. According to our memory verse, that means believing two things: that God exists, and that He rewards those who seek Him. Clearly, we won't do what God says if we don't think He's real. But we must also believe that following Him is worth it, that He knows what He's saying when He tells us to do something, and that His commands are always for our best.

Sometimes, it may be difficult to believe or obey what God says in His Word. You might be tempted to lie when the truth would get you in trouble, or go with the crowd to fit in even though you know what they're doing is wrong. But in faith, we should trust God and do what He says, believing that His Word is true and obeying Him is worth it in the end.

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 faith? How would you explain it? What does Hebrews 11:1 mean when it says faith is "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see"?
2. Can you think of someone in the Bible who showed faith? Is there a time in your life when you needed to have faith?
3. According to Hebrews 11:6, what do we need to believe in order to have faith? Why is it important believe that God exists, and that He rewards those who seek Him? Do you believe that obeying God is always worth it?
4. What are some situations where it might be difficult to believe or obey God's Word? How can you have faith in those circumstances?

## On the Court

- When the game seems unfair, it takes faith to trust God and believe that it is more important to do what's right than to win the game.
- One way we show faith in God is by doing what He tells us in His Word. Put the things you've learned about in team devotions this season into practice.

## Off the Court

- The first, most important act of faith is trusting in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- It might be scary to admit that you're a Christian in front of your unsaved friends, but trust in God and stand for your faith.
- If you do something wrong, you might be afraid of getting in trouble if someone finds out, but you can show faith by telling the truth and admitting what you did.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Encourage the kids to read Hebrews 11 at home with their families this week. This passage is full of examples of faith.