

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 6

Walking in Wisdom

Walking in Wisdom

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 encourage the team to make wise choices that please the Lord on how they spend their time.

Scripture Passage:

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. **Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**”

Ephesians 5:15-17 (memory verse, Ephesians 5:17, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

Our verses today talk about walking circumspectly. The phrase “walking circumspectly” means being wise, careful, and alert as you walk, but Paul is not referring to the way you move from place to place. The Bible often uses walking as an analogy for the way we live our lives, so by walking circumspectly, Paul means living wisely in awareness of the dangers of sin and temptation around us and avoiding them.

Verse 16 gives one way we can specifically walk in wisdom: by redeeming (making the best use of) our time. There are many different ways we can use our time. We can spend it on doing evil by sinning. We can use it for good by doing things like reading the Bible, praying, and sharing the Gospel with others. But we can also use our time in ways that are neither evil nor good, such as using our phones, surfing the internet, playing video games, watching TV, or other forms of entertainment. In order to redeem our time, we obviously must cut out any sinful uses of our time, but we also must make sure that entertainment doesn't take up all the time we need to do good. Entertainment is not wrong in itself, but the priority must be using our time for God's purposes.

The verses conclude by telling us not to be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. With regard to our time, we must understand how God wants us to use it and live accordingly. This means looking for sinful uses of time to cut out and prioritizing using our time to please the Lord (reading the Bible, praying, spreading the Gospel, etc.) over using it for entertainment and other things that can consume our time.

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.

Team Discussion

1. What does it mean to “walk circumspectly”? What kind of dangers do we face in our lives as believers?
2. What does it mean to “redeem the time”? What are ways we can use our time for evil? What about good?
3. Are there ways we can spend time that are neither good nor evil? What do these verses have to say about spending our time on these things?
4. What does it mean to understand what the will of the Lord is?

On the Court

The old man wants to:

- Joke around and distract others during devotion time.
- Use my time on the court to bring myself glory and on the bench to complain.

Instead, the new man will:

- Listen and participate during devotions.
- Play the game to glorify Jesus and encourage others while I'm on the bench.

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Spend all my time on my phone, video games, movies, and TV, and none on reading my Bible and praying.
- Skip church and hang out at home instead.

Instead, the new man will:

- Spend time every day in God's Word and prayer.
- Look for as many opportunities as possible to spend time with believers and share the Gospel.

“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.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:32. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 5:17 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Ask the kids if they have a personal devotion time where they pray and read the Bible. If not, encourage them to start. Challenge them to read one chapter of the book of John each day for the next 3 weeks, or suggest something else for them to read. What's important is not what they read, but that they are spending time in God's Word.