

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 6

With All Your Strength

With All Your Strength

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 To show the players how everything they do can be worship if they do it in a way that honors the Lord.

Scripture Passage:

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Colossians 3:23-24 (Memory Verse, Colossians 3:23, in **bold**)

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

In the Word

This season, we have studied how to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind. Today, we are going to look at the last part of Mark 12:30, loving God with all our strength, by learning how to obey Him with our actions. When you think of actions that God wants us to do, you might think of things like reading the Bible, praying, and being kind to others. These are all great ways to please God, but the verses we read today tell us that everything—even activities as simple as eating and drinking—can be done in a way that honors the Lord.

Colossians 3:23 teaches us to do everything that we do for the Lord, not for ourselves or other people. When Paul first wrote this verse, he was speaking to servants and telling them to obey their masters all the time, not just when the master was watching. That's because their true Master is the Lord, who sees everything. The same way, we should do what's right all the time, not just when others are watching or when doing these things makes us look good. Our main goal shouldn't be to please whoever might see us, whether that's friends, teachers, coaches, or even our parents, but to please the Lord.

The best way to know how God wants us to act is by reading His Word. The Bible tells us what things make Him happy (like helping others and being kind) and what things don't (sin). But God cares not just about *what* we do, but about *how* we do it. He wants us to work hard, do our best, have a good attitude, and give Him all the glory in all our actions.

In the Word (Continued)

So for example, if your parents ask you to clean your room, don't just do enough to make them happy, or just move things to places where your parent can't see them. Do your best, and have a good attitude as you clean. At school, obey the rules and do your work, not just when the teacher is watching, but at all times. When you do these things, remember that you aren't cleaning your room for your parents or doing homework for your teachers. You're doing these things for the Lord, who sees everything we do and rewards our good works.

Think of all the places you go and things you do every week: school, home, basketball, other activities, playing with friends. In all of these places, Jesus wants us to honor Him with our actions. So wherever we go, and whatever we do, let's do everything in a way that pleases the Lord so that we can love Him with all our strength.

"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

- Some people don't like sitting out of the game, but your time on the bench can be a time of worship. Obey your coach when he or she pulls you off and use the time to encourage others.
- Work hard and play by the rules at all times, not just when others are watching, since God sees everything we do.
- In success, give God the glory. In failure, thank Him for the chance to play.

Off the Court

- Don't just do the right thing when an adult is watching. Do what's right, even if no one knows what you did.
- Work hard on your school work and chores and do them with a good attitude so that you can please the Lord.
- When you do something good, don't take the credit or glory for yourself. Use it to give God glory and thanks.

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, Philippians 4:8 (NIV), "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:23 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Make it your goal to bring God glory in everything your team does.