

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

February 22nd, 2020

He Remains Faithful

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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 kids that even when we mess up and sin, God is faithful to forgive and cleanse us.

Scripture Passage:

“This is a faithful saying: for if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. **If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**”

2 Timothy 2:11-13 (Memory Verse, 2 Timothy 2:13, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

In 2 Timothy 2:11-12, Paul contrasts two choices we can make. We can give our lives for Jesus, even if that means enduring suffering, and be rewarded with everlasting life in God's kingdom, or we can deny Christ and be separated from Him forever. But where does that leave Christians who make mistakes and sin? That's what Paul addresses in verse 13.

In our verse, Paul says that even when we are faithless, Christ is faithful. Faithful means doing what you say you'll do without letting someone down, so what this verse is saying is that even when we sin and don't do what God tells us to do, He doesn't break His promises to us. In 1 John 1:9, it says that when we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He doesn't give up on us when we sin. He forgives us and cleanses us.

All of us make mistakes. When Jesus calls us to follow Him, He knows that we are not perfect. We should do our best to follow Him and keep His commandments, but when we fail, it's not the end. Some of the greatest men of faith in the Bible (Abraham, David, Peter) failed in a major way, and yet even when they were faithless, God was still faithful. He forgave and restored them, and He does the same with us. When you sin, confess your sin to God and He will forgive and restore you.

Some try to take advantage of Christ's faithfulness and say that it's okay to sin, but 1 John 1:9 doesn't just say Jesus forgives us. He cleanses us of our sin so that we can grow in godliness and do better next 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.

"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. Do Christians still sin after they get saved? What happens to believers when we sin?
2. What does the word "faithful" mean? What does it mean that when we are faithless, Jesus is faithful?
3. Has there been a time this season when you've really messed up and sinned? Does God give up on you when you sin? What does the Bible say we should do when we sin?
4. Does God's faithfulness give us an excuse for sin? If Jesus forgives us, why does it matter if we sin?

On the Court

- As believers, we should all try to respect others on the court, but sometimes our emotions get the best of us. When that happens, remember that Jesus is faithful to forgive us, apologize, and work to do better next time.
- Jesus is faithful to forgive our mistakes, so we should forgive our teammates when they sin too.
- Don't let God's forgiveness be an excuse for bad sportsmanship.

Off the Court

- When you sin, pray and confess that sin to Jesus. He promises that when we do that, He will forgive us and cleanse us from that sin.
- Don't let sin become a pattern. Jesus is faithful to forgive you when you sin, but he also cleanses us so that we can obey Him the next time.
- If Jesus can forgive us when we sin, we should be able to forgive others.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 2:8, "Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 2 Timothy 2:13 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.