

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 7

In Purity

In Purity

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 what it means to be pure, how we can be pure, and why we as believers should be pure.

Scripture Passage:

"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when [Jesus] is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**"

1 John 3:2-3 (Memory Verse, 1 John 3:3, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

Our last way to be an example in 1 Timothy 4:12 is "in purity." The word pure means clean, holy, free from defect. In a Christian context, purity means being free from any sin or anything that displeases God.

1 John 3:2-3 says that as God's children, one day we will be made like Jesus: pure, holy, and free from sin. In light of this, verse three says we should purify ourselves. That means removing sin, or anything that causes sin, from our lives. That could mean bad sinful habits, places we go where we are tempted, or even people who lead us into sin. But purity doesn't just mean staying away from bad things, but also seeking out the good things that keep us pure. Prayer, reading God's Word, worship, and fellowship with other believers are all things that help to purify us.

The idea of purity can have a negative connotation in our culture, as if Christians think they're better than everyone or don't do anything fun. The truth is that sin is harmful. The Lord tells us to stay pure not because He wants to keep us from having fun, but because He wants to protect us from the hurt sin causes to ourselves and those around us.

Of course, we need to remember that the purpose of purifying ourselves is not to earn God's love and approval. If you are a believer, Jesus has already forgiven all your sins. Rather, the last part of our verse says that we purify ourselves because Jesus is pure, and we want to be more like Him. And the good news is that, when you do mess up and fall into sin, you can always go to Jesus and He will forgive you (1 John 1:9).

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 does "purity" mean? What does it mean for Christians to keep themselves pure?
2. How do we purify ourselves? What are some habits, activities, places, or even people we should avoid to keep ourselves pure? What are some good things we should do to purify ourselves?
3. Do people in our world today typically think of purity as a good thing? Why do you think Jesus wants us to be pure?
4. Does being pure earn us God's love or favor? If not, then what is our motivation to purify ourselves?
5. What do we do when we mess up and sin? Does being pure mean that, once we become a believer, we can never sin?

On the Court

- Don't join in when you see others misbehaving on the basketball court. Be an example of purity.
- Is there an area where you really struggle with sin when you play basketball (e.g. losing your temper or saying unkind things)? Pray and ask the Lord to help you to stay pure in those situations.

Off the Court

- Look for friends who will encourage you in the ways of the Lord and help you to live a pure life.
- Spending time with God in prayer and His Word helps our hearts to be pure.
- Avoid any places, activities, or people who tempt you to sin. Giving those things up may be hard, but doing it to obey Jesus is always worth it.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Hebrews 11:6 (NIV), "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." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 John 3:3 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. As we discuss purity today, be sure to emphasize God's grace when we sin as we try to live more like Him each day.