

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 7

Patience

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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 players that **patience means continuing to do what's right even when things are difficult.**

Scripture Passage:

"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. **You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**"

James 5:7-8 (Memory Verse, James 5:8, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

We live in an impatient culture. From fast food to next-day shipping, when we want something, we usually want it now. In James 5:7-8, we will see that God wants us to be patient.

Patience is not just waiting a long time for something. If while you wait you are complaining the whole time, you're not being patient. The Bible calls patience "longsuffering," which means enduring hardship for a long time yet still doing what's right. That could involve actually waiting for something, or just continuing to do what's right in difficult times.

To illustrate patience, James uses the example of a farmer in verse 7. Not only does a farmer have to wait many months for his crops to go, but he has to work hard the entire time preparing the ground, watering the plants, weeding, and more. If he were impatient, he might decide that the harvest was taking too long and give up, but then his crops would be ruined. A good farmer continues to work hard throughout all these challenges, and in the end is rewarded with delicious food.

These verses mention the most important thing Christians are waiting for: Jesus' return, when He brings us to heaven with Him. While we wait for His return, we need to continue to do what is right and be patient, even when it is hard. That can be in little things like waiting for dinner without complaining, or big things like loving our enemies. And if we are patient, just as the farmer is rewarded with his crops, we will be rewarded at Christ's return when we are in heaven with Him forever.

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. Is patience something that people in our country are usually good at? Are you a patient person? When is it hardest for you to be patient?
2. What is patience? Is it just waiting for something? Why do you think the Bible uses the word "longsuffering" for patience?
3. How does James' example of a farmer show us what patience is? What happens if a farmer isn't patient?
4. What is the most important thing Christians are waiting for? How are we rewarded for our patience?

On the Court

- Don't complain or get frustrated when sitting on the bench and waiting to get into the game. Cheer on your teammates.
- The ref might make calls you don't like. Have patience by continuing to show respect even if you disagree.
- Don't give up on your teammates if they make mistakes. Be patient with them and continue to work with them.

Off the Court

- If someone is unkind to you, continue to show them the love of God. Don't use it as an excuse to be mean to them.
- Do you have a friend or family member who won't believe in Jesus no matter what you say? Don't give up! Keep praying for them and sharing Jesus with them.
- Don't get tired of doing what's right. Keep obeying Jesus until He comes.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, James 4:10. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 5:8 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. In today's game the team may face adversity. Determine with the team that the challenges of the game will not stop you from doing what's right.