

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 7

Patience

Patience

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 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**)

In the Word

Who here likes to wait for things? Probably none of us. When we want something, we usually want it right away. If you're hungry, you want food *now*. If you're sitting on the bench during the game, you want to go in as soon as possible. Oftentimes waiting can make us angry or irritated and cause us to do things we know we shouldn't. But that's not what God wants. According to James 5:7-8, we need to be patient.

We might think of patience as waiting for a really long time for something, but there is more to it than that. If you are waiting for something but the whole time you are complaining or getting upset, that's not patience. The word the Bible uses is *longsuffering*. When the Bible talks about patience, it means going through something difficult, possibly for a long time, and still doing what's right the whole time. It might not be something you wait for. It could simply mean continuing to do what's right even when your situation is tough and it would be easier to give up, such as showing kindness to someone even though they are always mean to you. Patience is about doing good even in difficult times.

To help us understand, James gives us an example of patience. A farmer has to wait a long time—many months—from the time he plants his seed until the harvest time. During that time, he has to do many difficult things, such as water the plants, take care of the soil, and remove weeds. If the farmer is impatient, he might decide that his crops are taking too long and stop working hard. But if he does that, his crops

In the Word (Continued)

would be ruined. Instead, a good farmer does everything he is supposed to do while he waits for his crops to grow. In the end, he is rewarded with delicious food to eat.

In these verses, James mentions the main thing Christians have to be patient for: the day when Jesus comes back to take us to heaven and live with us forever. As we wait for that day, we will face many challenges that we will need to be patient for. It could be a small thing, like waiting for dinner without complaining, or a big thing, like continuing to show kindness to someone who makes fun of you for believing in Jesus. Being patient is tough, but just like the patient farmer is rewarded for his patience with delicious food, we have an even better reward for our patience: life with Jesus in heaven forever!

“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

- 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.

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, 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.