

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 8

New Creations

New Creations

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 present the Gospel and show how when we trust in Jesus, He makes us into new creations.

Scripture Passage:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

Coaches Guide

This season, we've looked at different ways to be examples for Christ from 1 Timothy 4:12. We learned what it means to please God in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. All together, this is a comprehensive picture of the Christian life. But if you've tried to put these things into practice, you'll notice how difficult it is.

The reason obeying God is so hard is because of a problem we learned about last week: sin. When God first created humanity, we had no sin, but the Bible says that our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. Now every member of the human race is trapped in sin, and the punishment for sin is death, which means separation from God forever. But God loves us and wants to be with us forever, so He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for us and rise again to take the punishment we deserve and save us from our sins.

Jesus promises to forgive your sins when you trust Him as your Lord and Savior. And when He forgives you, not only does He deal with the sin, but He also cleanses the sinner. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that if we have trusted in Jesus, He makes us a new creation. Old things—our old self that wanted to sin and live the way we wanted—is gone, and God makes us a new person, filled with the Holy Spirit and with a desire to obey and please God. That doesn't mean we don't sin anymore. We won't be completely free from sin until we reach heaven. But as believers, God gives us the strength we need to follow Him.

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. Review the topics we've discussed from 1 Timothy 4:12. Have you tried to put the things we've talked about in devotions this season into practice? Has that been difficult? What has been the most challenging?
2. Why is it difficult to obey the Lord? What problem do we all face? What did God do to fix the problem of sin?
3. What does 2 Corinthians 5:17 mean when it says that Jesus makes us new creations? What does it mean to be a new creation?
4. Share your story of how Jesus made you a new creation. Describe (in an age-appropriate way) how He has changed your life.
5. Do you want to ask Jesus to forgive your sins and make you a new creation? You can give your life to Him today.

On the Court

- As a new creation, your purpose in playing basketball should no longer be to boast or make yourself look good, but to bring God glory by the way you play.
- If you are overly-competitive and it leads you into sin, pray and ask Jesus to help you control your emotions and honor Him on the court.
- If you are playing basketball with unbelievers, use it as an opportunity to tell them about what Jesus has done for you.

Off the Court

- If you've never asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, today you can ask Him to forgive your sins and make you a new creation.
- When Jesus makes you a new creation, He gives you the power to defeat sin in your life. If there is a sin you struggle with, pray and ask Him for help.
- Share the news that Jesus can forgive your sins and make you a new creation with people you know who don't believe in Jesus.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 1 John 3:3, "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. The main goal this week is to present the Gospel to the kids and give them a chance to respond. A sample prayer is on the back of this packet. Let Chris know if anyone makes the decision to follow Jesus.

If any of the kids on your team want to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, you can have them repeat this prayer after you.

The Sinner's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for creating me. I know that I'm a sinner and have thought, said, and done things that displease You. Thank You for sending Your Son to die on the cross and rise again to save me from my sins. I believe that Jesus is the King. Please forgive my sins and be my Lord and Savior. Make me a new creation and help me to follow You all the days of my life. I love You!

In Jesus' Name I pray, amen.