

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 8

Prayer

Prayer

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 what prayer is and challenge them to use this awesome gift.

Scripture Passage:

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. **Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**"

James 5:13-16, NIV (Memory Verse, James 5:16, in bold)

In the Word

Imagine that the best basketball player in the world was going to play for your team today. That would be pretty great. But now imagine that no one on your team passed him the ball and you tried to win the game without him. Would that make sense? No, it would be a huge waste to have such a good player on your team and not use him. Yet as believers, many of us waste something far better than a great basketball player: prayer. We have the ability to talk to the God of the Universe, yet many of us do not use this incredible gift enough.

In James 5:13-16, James talks about all the wonderful things God does through prayer. Prayer can rescue you when you are in trouble and help you when you are suffering. It has the power to heal the sick and can be used to ask for forgiveness from sins. The Bible is filled with examples of people who prayed and God did amazing things through their prayers. For example, in verses 17-18, we read that Elijah prayed for there to be no rain, and there was no rain for three and a half years. Then he prayed again and God sent rain. God works great things through prayer.

Verse 16 says that the prayer of a righteous man (or woman) is powerful and effective. Since that is the case, we should ask ourselves, why don't we pray all the time? If prayer is such a powerful tool, why don't we use it? Some might not know how to pray. Others don't believe that prayer really works. Maybe you are really busy, or forget to pray. But no matter what our excuse is, there is no good reason not to pray.

In the Word (Continued)

To pray, all you need to do is talk to God. Ask Him for what you need. Tell Him what you want. When we pray, God does amazing things. He can heal sickness, bring us out of problems, or even change our hearts to make us more like Him. That doesn't mean that God will always give us what we ask, when we ask for it. Our memory verse says that a righteous man's prayer is powerful and effective, meaning that it works and does great things, but that doesn't always happen how we think. Sometimes, we might have to wait a long time to get the answer we're looking for. Other times, He gives us an answer we don't expect. Still other times, rather than fixing our problems, He gives us strength to go through them. Yet no matter how or when He answers, we can trust that His answer is best. Since prayer is such an amazing gift, let's use it all the time.

"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

- Pray for your teammates who couldn't make it today and ask God to take care of them if they are sick.
- Pray for anyone who gets injured in today's game.
- Pray that everything you say and do on the court would be pleasing to Jesus today.
- During the week, remember to pray for your coaches and teammates. Ask them for prayer requests.

Off the Court

- If you have a sick friend or family member, you can pray and ask God to heal them.
- Are you going through a tough situation? Pray and ask God for wisdom and help.
- Pray for God to make you more like Jesus.
- Talk to your family about having a prayer time when you can pray together as a family every day.

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 5:8. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 5:16 (NIV) with your team (4-5s only need to learn the second part of the verse, starting with, "The prayer of..."). Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Take some extra time for prayer requests today. It's okay if your devotion time is a little shorter and you spend that extra time on prayer.