

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 10-18 year olds

Week 8

*The Gospel*

# The Gospel

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** To present the Gospel to the players, showing them that only by putting their faith in Christ can they love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

## Scripture Passage:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"  
Romans 3:23

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

## Coaches Guide

In Mark 12:30-31, we've seen what Jesus said are the two greatest commandments: love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbors as yourself. As you try to obey these commands, you might notice that it's difficult, and often we fail to show that kind of love. That's because we all have a problem called sin. Romans 3:23 tells us that we all have sin, and sin causes us to fall short of God's perfect standard. On our own, we have no ability to obey God, and Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages, or punishment, of sin is death. That's not just physical death, but eternal separation from God.

John 3:16 gives God's solution to our sin problem: sending His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfect life, and yet was crucified as a criminal. On the cross, He took the punishment for sin—death—that we deserved for our sins, even though He never sinned Himself. Then, on the third day Jesus rose again, defeating death. If we want Jesus to save us, we only need to confess our sins, believe that He died and rose again for us, and ask Him to be our Lord and Savior. If we do that, John 3:16 says we will be forgiven of our sins and live with Jesus forever in heaven.

It's important to know that Jesus will not only forgive our sins and bring us to Heaven in the future, but He also changes our lives today. Without Him, we have no chance of obeying Mark 12:30-31, but when He is our Lord and Savior, He gives us the power to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves.

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. Have you tried to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself? How has that gone? What have been some challenges?
2. What keeps us from being able to love God and love our neighbor? What is God's solution to our sin problem (see John 3:16)?
3. Share your testimony of how you came to know Jesus with your team. Talk about who you were before you were a Christian, how you got saved, and how He's changed your life.
4. Present the Gospel and offer your team a chance to make Jesus their Lord and Savior.
5. How do you think knowing Jesus affects your life here on earth today?

## On the Court

- Without Jesus, none of the things we've talked about this year are possible. If you haven't done so before, ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Lord and Savior today.
- You can't love the Lord in your own strength. You need Christ's strength. If you struggle with bad sportsmanship, mouthing off, being selfish, or anything else when you play basketball, ask Jesus to help you to resist sin and do what's right.

## Off the Court

- Do you struggle with a certain sin? Ask Jesus to give you the strength to overcome that temptation and live for Him.
- The news that Jesus is so great that everyone needs to know. Think of friends and family that are not Christians and tell them all about how Jesus can be their Lord and Savior too.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Mark 12:31, "The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Since this is the last week, there is no new memory verse.
3. Invite the players to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Stress to them that this is the most important decision they could ever make. Playing basketball is great, but without Jesus, this all becomes meaningless. Let Chris know of any players who get saved today.