

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

All season, we have looked at what Jesus said were the two most important things a person can do: love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. So if you want to please God, all you have to do is all of that, all the time, perfectly for your whole life. Sounds easy right? Of course not!

Romans 3:23 tells us the bad news: all of us have a problem called sin. As we learned, sin is anything we think, say, and do that displeases God. As you seek to obey God's commands to love Him and love others, you'll quickly notice that sin always gets in the way. How often do you find yourself saying things that are unkind, disobeying parents or teachers, or putting other things before God? No matter how hard we try, we all sin and fail to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And unfortunately, Romans 6:23 tells us that the punishment for sin is death—separation from God forever. That sounds like really bad news!

Thankfully, we have great news too! John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world that He sent His Son Jesus to help us. Jesus lived a perfect life. He loved the Lord with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength every day. But He was killed as a criminal, even though He did nothing wrong. Why? He was paying the punishment for sin that we deserved to pay. It would be like if you committed a crime, but someone else agreed to go to jail for you. The same way, Jesus paid the price for our sin by dying on the cross. However, He didn't stay dead, but He rose again from the grave on

In the Word (Continued)

the third day, never to die again. Now anyone who trusts in Him can be forgiven of their sins and live with Jesus in Heaven forever.

Jesus saving us from death and taking us to heaven is great and is something to look forward to in the future, but did you know that Jesus also changes our lives here on earth? Without Jesus, it is impossible to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength or to love our neighbor as ourselves. But when we trust Jesus and give our lives, He gives us the power to do those things in His strength, not ours.

So what do you need to do to be saved? You have to admit that you are a sinner who has broken God's law. You must believe that Jesus really did die on the cross for our sins and rise again. And you need to ask God to forgive you and be your Lord (which means King) and Savior. When you do this, you join the family of God and will live with Jesus 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

- 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.

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, 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.