

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 8

The Narrow Gate

The Narrow Gate

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 using **Matthew 7:13-14** and give the kids an opportunity to respond in faith.

Scripture Passage:

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. **Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.**”

Matthew 7:13-14 (Memory Verse, Matthew 7:14, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

Matthew 7:13-14 presents us with two paths. One is wide and easy, and there are many on that way, the other is narrow and difficult, with few on that road. The question everyone must answer is, which of these paths will you take?

The first path represents the way of the world. The people on this path live according to their own, sinful desires—whatever makes them happy. Most people choose this path because it is easier and allows them to do whatever they want. But the end destination is the punishment our sin deserves: destruction, or eternal separation from God.

The second path is the way of following Jesus. This path is difficult. It requires you to give up control of your life and surrender to the Lord. It is also not as popular a choice as the world's way. But the end reward is eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

All of us begin life on the path to destruction. We're all born sinners, and our sin separates us from God. But Jesus didn't want us to spend eternity apart from Him, and so He made a way for us to be saved from destruction by coming to earth as a man and dying on the cross. On the cross, He took the punishment our sins deserve, and then He rose again from the dead, defeating death. Now He gives all people the opportunity to follow Him and receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life. All we have to do is confess that we are sinners, believe that He died and rose again for us, and ask Him to forgive our sins and be our Lord (King) and Savior.

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. What are the two paths presented in Matthew 7:13-14? What do they represent?
2. Why do you think so many people choose the way that leads to destruction?
3. What did Jesus do so that we can go on the way of eternal life? What do you need to do in order to follow Jesus?
4. Share with your team the story of how you (the coach) chose to follow Jesus. Talk about who you were before Christ, how you got saved, and what the Lord has done in your life.
5. Which of these paths are you on? Have you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? If not, would you like to today.

On the Court

- The most important thing you can take away from this basketball season is knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you haven't made that choice before, do it today.
- When Jesus is your Savior, following Him is what's most important. Let everything you do on the court today be done for His glory.

Off the Court

- Some of your friends and family might not know Jesus. Tell them the good news that they can be forgiven of their sins and receive eternal life.
- The way of the crowd is the way of destruction. Don't do something that's wrong just because everyone else is doing it. Instead, follow Jesus and live to please Him.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 7:14 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. The main goal of this week is to present the Gospel to the kids and to give them an opportunity to respond. Let Chris know if anyone asks Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.