

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 8

Your Heavenly Reward

Your Heavenly Reward

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 the players how they can receive God's reward of eternal life.

Scripture Passage:

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23-24

Coaches Guide

Last week, we talked about how it is more important to please the Lord than it is to please others. Today's verse, Colossians 3:24, tells us why: because the Lord will reward those who live for Him. That reward, of course, is eternal life with Him in heaven for those who believe.

This reward is available to everyone who puts their faith in Jesus Christ. That's pretty amazing, since the Bible teaches that a reward is the last thing we deserve. God's Word says that we all have sinned and done things that displease the Lord (Romans 3:23). That's a problem, because Romans 6:23 tells us that the punishment for our sin is death—not just physical death, but eternal death, separation from God forever. Everyone who's ever lived deserves this punishment, from criminals to "good people." But God loves too much to let things stay this way.

God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to be born as a man. Though He was human like the rest of us, He never sinned. He is the only man in history who didn't deserve death, and yet He was killed on the cross like a criminal. By dying, He took the punishment that we deserved, death, for us. Then on the third day, He defeated death itself by rising from the dead. Now, anyone who comes to Him and believes can be saved from their sin and spend eternity with Him in heaven.

To be saved, all you have to do is confess you are a sinner, believe that Jesus died and rose again for you, ask Him to forgive your sins, and make Him your 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 did we talk about last week? Why is it important to please God in everything we do? What reward is Colossians 3:24 referring to?
2. Do you think that we as humans deserve this reward? Why or why not?
3. What is the biggest problem that every human faces? How did God provide the solution to the problem? What do we need to do to receive eternal life?
4. Share your testimony of who you were before meeting Jesus, how you got saved, and how He's changed your life.
5. Present the Gospel and give your players a chance to respond and make Jesus their Lord and Savior.

On the Court

- The message of what Jesus has done for us and how we can be saved is more important than anything that can happen on the basketball court. If you take away one thing from this season, let it be this message.
- Jesus wants to be King of your whole life, including on the basketball court. Make honoring Him with the way you act your number one goal.

Off the Court

- The most important choice any person can make is to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If you have never done that before, do it today!
- If Jesus truly is your Lord, you will live the way He wants you to live by doing the things His Word says—the things we've talked about this season.
- Share the good news of what Jesus has done for us with any unbelieving friends or family members that you have.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Colossians 3:23, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Since this is the final week, there is no new memory verse.
3. The goal of today is to give a clear Gospel message and invite anyone who wants to respond to receive Jesus. Let Chris know if anyone on your team asks Jesus to be their Savior.
4. Though our season ends today, these relationships don't. Whenever you see your players, encourage them in their walks with the Lord.