

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 10-18 year olds

Week 9

*Building on the Rock*

# Building on the Rock

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 encourage the players to put the things they've learned from God's Word into practice using the parable of the two builders.

## Scripture Passage:

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." - Matthew 7:24-27

## Coaches Guide

All season, we've been studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and seeing how He teaches us to live. He tells us to make peace, be salt and light, love our enemies, pray, store up treasure in heaven, not worry, and enter the narrow gate. But simply learning these things is not enough. We need to put them into practice.

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus uses the parable of the two builders to illustrate the importance of doing the things the Bible says. The wise man builds his house (life) on a firm foundation, the rock, which represents obedience to God and His Word. But the fool, who builds on the sand, is someone who rejects Christ's teachings and lives life his own way.

During the storm, which represents the trials and challenges we face, the wise man's life stands, while the fool's life falls apart. Living your own way might feel good for a time, but when the storms of life come, those who follow Christ have their hope secure on a firm foundation, while those who reject Him see the things they are living for fail them.

Notice that both the wise and foolish man hear the Lord's words. The difference is that the wise man does what Jesus says, but the fool does not. This season, all of us have heard God's Word. The question is, are you going to do what it says and live in obedience to the Lord, or will you ignore His Word and live the way you want? None of us will be perfect, but we should all aim to do what honors and pleases the Lord. When we seek to obey Christ and His Word, our life will be on a firm foundation.

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 some of the things we have learned in team devotions this year? Did anything stick out to you? Have you been putting the things you've learned into practice in your life?
2. What does the parable in Matthew 7:24-27 mean? Who do the wise and foolish builders represent?
3. What's the main difference between a wise and foolish man according to the parable?
4. What are "storms" in life? How does building on the right foundation help you to withstand life's storms?
5. Which of the two builders best describes your life right now? How can you be more like the wise builder? Do you have to be perfect?

## On the Court

- Don't ignore the things we've discussed in devotion time this year. Remember what you've learned and try to do the things God says in His Word.
- Each week in team devotions, we've talked about how to obey God's Word when you play basketball. If you haven't been doing these things this season, work on them today.

## Off the Court

- In order to obey God's Word, you first must know what it says. Take time each day to read and study the Bible, and then put the things it says into practice.
- Are you having a difficult time obeying God's Word? Pray and ask Him to help you.
- When you face life's "storms," trust in Christ and continue to do what His Word says.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 7:14, "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Since this is the last week, there is no new memory verse.
3. Do what you can to continue the relationships you've built with your players this season. Remember to pray for them, and be sure to greet them and ask how they're doing when you see them around at church or next season.