

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 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.

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** 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

## In the Word

If you wanted to construct a house, where would you build it? Maybe you would pick a spot next to your best friend's house, or choose a place that has nice weather. Construction workers will tell you that when you want to build a house, it is important to choose a place with a firm foundation, like rock or concrete, not something weak or slippery like a swamp or sand. When the foundation of a house is solid, the whole house can face strong wind or heavy rain and stand firm. But if a house is built on a weak foundation, it can easily collapse.

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus tells a story of two men building houses on two different kinds of foundations. The wise man chooses to build his house on a rock, while the foolish builder makes his house on the sand. These two foundations represent two different ways we can choose to live. As Christians, we should build our lives on the sure foundation of the Word of God by obeying Jesus' teachings. But fools reject the Scriptures and build on a weak foundation by living life their own way.

In the parable, the two houses face a storm, which represents the trials we face in life, and the foundation that each man chose has major consequences. In the storm, the wise man's house stands strong, but the fool's house collapses. This shows that only by living in obedience to God can we make it through life's challenges. Living your own way and doing what you want might feel good for a time. But when life gets tough, only those who trust and follow Christ have a hope that cannot be taken away.

## In the Word (Continued)

In the parable, both the wise and foolish man hear Christ's words. The difference is how they respond. The wise man listens to the Lord's teachings and does what He says, but the fool ignores the Word of God and lives his own way. Like these two builders, all of us have heard God's Word in our team devotion time this season. We've talked about making peace, being salt and light, loving our enemies, praying, storing up treasure in heaven, and not worrying. But if you want to be like the wise builder, it's not enough to just learn these things. You have to do them.

As we try to do what Jesus says, none of us will be perfect. We all fail to obey God's Words at times. But every day, in everything we do and every decision we make, we should seek to live in the way that Jesus tells us to live in His Word. The choice is yours. Will you follow Jesus and build your life on a firm foundation, or reject Christ and live your own way?

"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

- 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. Spend time with your family reading God's Word, 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.

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, 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.