

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 10-18 year olds

Week 9

*Imitators of Christ*

# Imitators of Christ

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 teach the kids to be imitators of Christ by studying His Word and seeking to think, speak, act, and live like Jesus.

## Scripture Passage:

“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

Ephesians 5:1

## Coaches Guide

To start this season, we talked about how, even as young people, these players can be examples of what it means to follow Christ. But even as we seek to be examples for Jesus, Christ Himself serves as an example for us, as we will see in today's verse.

Ephesians 5:1 tells us to be imitators of Christ. An imitator watches someone else and tries to copy exactly what they do. For example, think of an actor who carefully studies the person they will be portraying. Being an imitator of Christ then means that we look at Jesus as our example of how to think, speak, act, and live our lives, and then try to do the same.

In order to be imitators of Christ, we must know Him well. This requires more than just head knowledge about Him. We must have a true relationship with Him, as you would with a close friend. A great way to do this is by reading His Word. When we study the Bible, Jesus promises to meet with us and reveal Himself to us. The more time we spend with Him, the more we will know Him, and the more we will be like Him.

As we get to know Jesus, we then must try to live the way Jesus lived. In every situation, we should think: what would Jesus do? How would He talk to this person? What would He think of the decision I am making right now? The answer to these questions will help us do the right thing. Of course, we won't be perfect. We will make mistakes. But the goal of the Christian life is that each day, we become more and more like our Savior and imitate Jesus Christ.

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 things you've learned this season in team devotions? What does it mean to be an example for Christ?
2. What is an imitator? What does it mean to be an imitator of Christ?
3. How can we be imitators of Jesus? How can we know what Jesus would think, say, or do in different situations?
4. What are your Bible study habits? Do you ever read God's Word on your own? Do you find studying God's Word easy or difficult? What are some challenges that make it hard to read your Bible? What are some tips or strategies that might make it easier for you to read God's Word?
5. What are some ways you have grown in your walk with the Lord? What are some ways you would like to improve?

### On the Court

- Even though He was God, Jesus respected those in authority over Him. Respect and obey the coaches and refs.
- Follow in Jesus' example of humility. Don't be prideful or boast, but rather give glory to God.
- Jesus loved His enemies, and so you should certainly be able to love your opponents, who are brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Off the Court

- Reading God's Word is the best way to get to know Jesus and learn how He would think, speak, or act in the different situations you face.
- Jesus forgave others when they were unkind to Him. Follow His example and forgive those who mistreat you.
- Look for those in need and help them, just as Jesus did.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. As this is the final week, there is no memory verse this week.
3. As the season ends today, we want to encourage the kids to continue to be in God's Word and pray for their ongoing walk with the Lord.