

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 9

Walk by the Spirit

Walk by the Spirit

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 study will show the kids that the key to fighting sin is by living out the fruit of the Spirit.

Scripture Passage:

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

Galatians 5:16-18

Coaches Guide

We've seen this year how the fruit of the Spirit is the mark of a healthy Christian life. However, as we try to live out the things we are learning, we discover that it's hard to have love, joy, peace, and the rest. That is because, as Paul tells us in Galatians 5:16-18, there is a war going on inside us. On one side is the Holy Spirit, who helps us to obey God. On the other side is our flesh, the part of us that wants to sin. The desires of the flesh are powerful, and when we give in to them, we sin, and sin brings with it all kinds of consequences. While sin looks attractive when we are tempted, in the end it leaves us empty and broken.

The trick to fighting sin and the flesh is found in verse 16. When we walk by Spirit (obey God and live out the fruits of the Spirit), we will not give in to the flesh's desires. When we simply try to avoid sin, we often fail because we are not replacing the sin with something good. But when our goal is to obey the Holy Spirit and practice love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, we will not give in to the flesh. Instead, we will replace our sinful desires with godly ones. According to verse 16, as long as we are walking by the Spirit, we will not give in to the flesh. Of course, all of this is only works if the Holy Spirit is living inside of us, and for the Holy Spirit to be in you, you must first be a believer. Those who are living defeated by sin must trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Only then will the Holy Spirit come into your life and help you to live by the Spirit and defeat sin.

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 have your experiences been as you've tried to live out the fruit of the Spirit like we've talked about? Have some of them come easy? Have some of them been difficult?
2. According to Galatians 5:16-18, why do you think it's so difficult to obey God and live out the fruit of the Spirit?
3. Verse 16 says obeying God (walking by the Spirit) is the best way to fight sin. Why is that easier than just trying not to sin?
4. Can anybody walk by the Spirit? What do you need to do to have the Holy Spirit inside of you?
5. Does anyone want to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and fill them with His Holy Spirit? You can do that today!

On the Court

- The flesh tempts us to use our words to insult and argue. Instead of just avoiding these sins, look for ways to speak words of love to others.
- Sports can easily make us angry, upset, or anxious. Remind yourself of the joy and peace we have in God and spend some time in prayer thanking Him.
- Every time you are tempted to show an opponent or teammate unkindness, think of a way you can be kind to them instead.

Off the Court

- Fight the temptation to mistreat friends and siblings by looking for ways to show them love.
- The flesh looks for ways we can be disobedient or distracting in school, but self-control means seeing how we can bless our teacher.
- Look for ways you can obey and honor your parents without even being asked. Don't just try to obey only when you're asked. Try to be helpful around the house wherever you can be.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 9:25 (ESV), "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it. There will be no new verse this week since it is the final week of the season.
2. Take some time for any closing remarks you want to say to your team. Take advantage of this week as your final chance to spend time with your players.