

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

This year, we have spent time looking at the many different fruits of the Spirit. Who can name them? (Allow the players to name them.) As we saw at the beginning of the year, the fruit of the Spirit is the sign of a healthy Christian life. If our life is producing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, we know that we are obeying God and His Spirit is working in our hearts. If we do not see these things in our lives, we are not living the way God would want us to live.

You may have noticed that doing these things is hard. Part of us wants to obey God and live out the fruit of the Spirit, but another part of us wants to sin. In Galatians 5:16-18, we are told that this is because there is a war going on inside of all Christians. On one side is the Holy Spirit, fighting to help us obey God. The other part of us is called the flesh. The flesh is the thing inside of us that tells us to sin. When we want to talk back to adults, disobey our parents, make fun of others, or hit our brother or sister, that's the flesh. Sin ruins our lives because it goes against God's plan for us, but fighting against it can be hard and even feel impossible.

I think we can all agree that we want to be full of the Holy Spirit, not the flesh. We all want a life of love, joy, and peace rather than one of sin. The question is, how do we live a life full of the Holy Spirit? First of all, the Holy Spirit only lives inside of Christians. If you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Lord and Savior, you can do that today. You

In the Word (Continued)

Can tell Jesus that you're sorry for your sins, that you believe He died on the cross and rose again for you, and that you want Him to forgive you and be your Father, King, and Friend. When you do that, He gives you His Holy Spirit, as well as the promise that you will be with Him forever in heaven. (Give the players an opportunity to pray and ask Jesus to be their Savior).

But for all of us who are believers and do have the Holy Spirit living in us, verse 16 says that the key to stopping sin is to live out the fruit of the Spirit by doing the things we talked about this year. Rather than trying simply to avoid sin, we should look for ways we can show the fruit of the Spirit. When we do that, we replace our destructive, sinful desires with godly ones. When we are loving others, showing kindness, having self-control, and the rest, we will not sin and obey the flesh. As long as we are doing what the Spirit wants, we can live in freedom from our sins.

"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

- 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.

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, 1 Corinthians 9:25 (ESV). 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. Be sure to present the Gospel and offer one more chance for those who have not made Christ their Lord and Savior to be saved.
3. 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.