

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 1

Chosen People

Chosen People

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 teach the kids that Christians are God's chosen, beloved people, and that He wants us as His people to be holy.

Scripture Passage:

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering."

Colossians 3:12

In the Word

Have you ever invited friends to your birthday party? How did you choose who to invite? When you choose people for something, you pick those who are important to you. But did you know that God has chosen you and me for something special? Our verse today, Colossians 3:2, calls Christians, "the elect of God." This is another way of saying that God chose us to be His special people, which means He wants you to be a part of His family! Isn't that great? And as God's chosen people, our verse tells us that we are "holy and beloved." So what does that mean?

The word holy means set apart, or different from everyone around you. God wants His people to live differently than the rest of the world, and differently than we did before we knew Jesus. We need to follow what God's Word says in our actions, words, thoughts, and attitudes. "Beloved" means that we are loved by God. He didn't choose us just so we could be His servants. He chose us because He loves us.

So what does it mean to be God's chosen people? What does He want us to do? Our verse today tells us five things that Christians should "put on," or add to our lives. The first is tender mercies, also known as compassion. Compassion means seeing those who are in need and trying to help them. As a Christian, we need to care not just about ourselves, but also for others. Next, Christians need kindness. Being kind means treating people the right way and doing good things to them that will bless them. As Jesus puts it, we should "do to others as you want them to do to you"

In the Word (Continued)

(Luke 6:31 NIRV). Third is humility, which means that instead of thinking of ourselves as better than others and putting our needs first, we think of and treat others above ourselves. Next on the list is meekness, meaning we need to be gentle and keep ourselves under control. Finally, our verse tells us to be longsuffering. That means being patient and continuing to do the right thing even when it gets hard.

Living the way this verse describes will make you look different from the world around you. People will see you and ask why you choose to put others first, or treat people with kindness, or do the right thing even when it's difficult. When that happens, it's a wonderful opportunity to tell them that you're one of God's chosen people, that Jesus has changed your life, and that they can be one of God's people too.

"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

- Be humble when you play. Don't boast when you play well, but instead give the glory to God and acknowledge the skills of others.
- You may feel that the other team isn't playing fairly or the refs keep making bad calls. Having longsuffering means continuing to do what's right even in these tough situations.
- Even when you're playing hard and competing, you must still be kind in your words and actions to the other team.

Off the Court

- If you want to be a part of God's chosen people but have never asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, you can do that today.
- Praying for someone going through a hard time or doing yardwork for an elderly neighbor are two of the many ways to help those in need and show mercy and compassion.
- Go out of your way to do something helpful for someone who is difficult to be kind to.

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. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:12 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week. Whoever learns the verse for next week will receive a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Since it's the first week, make sure that all the players learn each other's names and get to know one another.
3. If anyone has never asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, invite them to do that and become part of God's people today.