

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

10-17's

Sports Devos

Week 1

You will Love the Lord your God

You will Love the Lord your God

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 To show students that “the Lord our God” is our loving heavenly Father.

Scripture Passage: Mark 12:28-31

“And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, ‘Which commandment is the most important of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**” The second is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’” (Memory Verse, Mark 12:30, **in bold**)

Coaches Guide

This year, our theme will be Mark 12:30-31, which says to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. While for most of the year, we will be looking at how we do that, the first two weeks, we are going to lay the foundation by answering two key questions: who is the Lord and why should I love Him.

This week's focus will be on the “who” question: who is God? There are many qualities of God that are true of gods in nearly every religion: He is Creator, He is King, He is all-powerful and all-knowing. These are certainly things that you want your team to know. However, if we end there, they are worshipping a God that is no different from the gods of Islam and other religions, who also affirm these things about their god(s).

What we want to focus on this week is that God is our Father. He loves us and cares for us. He not only rules over all and can do all things. He concerns Himself with the details of our lives and wants to get to know us individually. The God who made heaven and earth is the same God who loves you and me. As a Father, He also is the one who guides and disciplines us because He loves us and wants what's best for us.

As you discuss who God is with your team today, emphasize these qualities that make Him different from all other gods. Show them that He is not just a mighty ruler, but that He is also a caring Father.

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 Field" gives some in-game situations where today's lesson can be applied, while "Off the Field" 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. Jesus tells us to "love the Lord our God." Who is this God? What things do you guys know about Him?
2. What makes God different from other gods?
3. Give your team an example of a time in your life that God revealed who He is to you. Have one or two players share a story of their own.

On the Field

- God loves each of us and we are all important to Him. Therefore, every person is important and special. Treat one another that way by getting to know one another. Learn the name of each of your teammates as well as something special about them.
- If your teammates make a mistake or get discouraged today, remind them that they have a heavenly Father who loves them.

Off the Field

- Remember that God loves and cares about you. Even if it feels like you don't have someone who cares about you, remember that God is your loving Father.
- Look out for family, friends, and neighbors who are sad or discouraged. Let them know that they have a Father in heaven who loves them.

The Game Plan

1. God does not promise to be Father to everyone, but only to those who believe in Jesus (John 1:12). Ask the players if they have ever chosen to believe in Jesus and ask God to be their Father. This is a great opportunity to explain the Gospel and invite the players to ask Jesus to be their Savior.
2. Learn and memorize Mark 12:30 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize getting to know one another this week. Encourage the players to learn one another's names. Let them know that just as God loves each player on this team, so should we.