

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 1

Wisdom from Above

Wisdom from Above

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 players that God wants us to live according to His wisdom, and that wisdom can be found through prayer and the Word.

Scripture Passage:

"If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault."

James 1:5 (NIRV) - Memory Verse

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

James 3:17 (NKJV)

Coaches Guide

The book of James was written by James, Jesus' half-brother. No doubt growing up with Jesus allowed James to pick up a lot of wisdom, and so it's no surprise that wisdom is a major theme of his book.

Wisdom is more than just knowledge, or knowing a lot of facts. Wisdom is being able to apply your knowledge to do something correctly. For example, knowledge is knowing the parts of a car, but wisdom is being able to fix an engine. Biblical wisdom means knowing how to live the way God wants you to (and doing it). God is our Creator, so He knows the best way for us to live, just like someone who designs a computer knows the best way to use it. Following God's wisdom means living the way we were designed to live, and James 3:17 says that doing so produces purity, peace, gentleness, mercy, and more. If we see these things in our lives, it's because we are living according to God's wisdom.

So how do we get God's wisdom? First, we can find it in God's Word. The Bible is "wisdom from above" (James 3:17) because it comes straight from God. It tells us exactly who God created us to be and how we can obey Him. Allowing the Bible to tell you how to live is like having the person who designed your computer sit with you and explain all the features you didn't know about. Second, we can pray and ask God for it. James 1:5 says that anyone who lacks wisdom only needs to ask, and God will give it freely. This season, we will be studying through the book of James to learn about God's wisdom and how it applies to our lives.

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. Does anyone know who James (the author of the book of James) is? What would it be like to have Jesus as a brother?
2. What does "wisdom" mean? What does James 3:17 mean by "wisdom from above"?
3. According to James 3:17, what will our lives look like when we are living according to God's wisdom?
4. What two ways can we receive "wisdom from above"?
5. What are some situations in your life when you might need God's wisdom? (Coach: give examples from your own life.)

On the Court

- God's wisdom applies to every area of our lives, even the way we play basketball. Study God's Word to see what you can learn about playing in a way that honors Him. What does God say about things like competition, pride, teamwork, or rivalry?
- Before each game, pray and ask God for wisdom to know how to play the game for His glory.

Off the Court

- In situation when it's hard to know what's right or wrong, don't follow your own feelings. Seek out God's wisdom in the Word and prayer, and see what He says to do.
- Spend time in the Bible every day so that you can hear God's wisdom and learn to live it out.
- Do you feel like you need more wisdom? Pray and ask God for it!

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize James 1:5 (NIRV) 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. Be sure to pray with the kids and ask God to give all of you wisdom this season, both as you play basketball and as you study the Word.
3. As it is the first week, make sure that all the players and coaches get to know one another and learn each other's names.