

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 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.

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 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)

## In the Word

Imagine if you could talk to Jesus' brother. What would you say to him? What would you ask him? If he told you something, do you think you'd listen? You might not know this, but one of the books of the Bible was actually written by Jesus' brother, James. Someone who spent so much time with Jesus probably has some pretty important things to say, so this season, we are going to spend some time reading from and talking about the book of James.

The book of James is all about wisdom. When you think of wisdom, you might think about old guys saying really smart things, but the wisdom James is talking about is more than that. True wisdom is knowing and living how God wants us to live. Since God made each of us, He knows what's best for us just like someone who designs a machine, computer, or car knows the best way to use what he made. When we live according to God's wisdom, James 3:17 says that it will produce peace, gentleness, mercy, and more in us. That sounds pretty great!

So how do we get this wisdom? James tells us two main ways. First, we ask. James 1:5 says if we need wisdom, God will give it to us freely. He won't turn you down. He loves to give wisdom. All you have to do is pray and ask. The second way to get God's wisdom is to seek it in His Word. James refers to it as wisdom "from above" in James 3:17. In other words, the book of James (and the rest of the Bible) gives us wisdom that comes straight from God. It's as if the guy who designed your car or computer

## In the Word (Continued)

came to your house and showed you the best way to use it. That would be pretty awesome! The Bible is exactly that: our Designer telling us how to live the way we were made for.

Sometimes it's easy to know the right thing to do, but other times it can be hard. We might not know what God says about our situation or be able to figure out what's right or wrong. When those times come, we need to pray for wisdom and then look in God's Word to see what the Bible has to say. When we do that, we will find God's wisdom and know how He wants us to live. This season, as we study the book of James, we will look at the many different pieces of wisdom we can find in God's Word and then look for ways we can live out that wisdom in our lives both on and off the basketball court.

"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

- Not only should we learn to play basketball well, but we should learn to play in a way that pleases the Lord and follows His wisdom. We will be learning what that means in our team devotions this season.
- Pray and ask God for wisdom and read the Bible to find out what it means to play basketball according to God's wisdom.

### Off the Court

- If your friends are telling you to do something but you're not sure if it's right or not, ask God for wisdom and look for answers in His Word.
- Study God's Word with your family every day so that you can hear God's wisdom and learn to live it out.

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 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.