

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 2

Quick to Listen

Quick to Listen

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 to respond to conflict by being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry as it says in James 1:19.

Scripture Passage:

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”

James 1:19 (NIV)

Coaches Guide

In basketball, how fast or slow we do things is really important. On a fast break, you want to go quickly. When protecting a lead in the fourth quarter, you want to play slow. In James 1:19, we find that this principle is true in life as well. We want to be quick to do some things, like listen, but slow to do others, like speak or get angry.

There is nothing wrong with speaking, and there are certainly times when we should be angry, but when we are quick to do these things, we can get into trouble. Being slow to speak or get angry means that when we want to say something or get angry at someone, we stop and think about it first. It means asking, “Is this a kind, helpful, true thing to say? Is it right to get angry in this situation?” I’m sure all of us can think of a time we said something we shouldn’t have or got angry and did something we regretted. Most of these situations could have been avoided if we were not so quick to speak or get angry. Instead, we should be quick to listen.

Being quick to listen means stopping to hear what others have to say before we speak ourselves. When someone does something that hurts or offends us, a person who is quick to listen will stop and ask the other person why they did that and try to understand things from their point of view. Being quick to listen will often help us avoid conflicts that arise due to misunderstandings. So when you are tempted to speak or get angry, the wise thing to do is slow down, listen to what the other person has to say, and think about what affects your words and anger might have.

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. Have you ever been in a situation when you said something without thinking and got into trouble or gotten angry at someone, but later found out they did nothing wrong?
2. What do you think James 1:19 means by "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry"?
3. Why should we be slow to speak or become angry? What might happen if we are quick to do those things?
4. How can being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry help us to avoid conflict?

On the Court

- When you get fouled, don't assume the other team is playing dirty or try to respond by fouling back.
- Give the refs the benefit of the doubt and stop before yelling at them or criticizing.
- Consider the way you speak to members of the other team and make sure it is God-honoring.

Off the Court

- In an argument, don't be so quick to share your opinion. Listen to what the other person has to say and try to understand where they're coming from.
- If someone says something that offends you, try to understand why they said it. Perhaps there was a misunderstanding.
- When you are tempted to say something, first ask if it is true, kind, and helpful.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, James 1:5 (NIRV). Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 1:19 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. In the game today, there will be conflict. Encourage your team to use James 1:19 when responding to that conflict.