

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 students 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)

In the Word

Do you know what reflexes are? Our reflexes are the way our body responds to certain things, sometimes even without thinking. When you see a ball coming toward your head, what is the first thing you do? Do you duck? Catch it? Let it hit you? Each of these reactions are examples of different reflexes we might have. In James 1:19, we read that just as our bodies have different reflexes, we have spiritual reflexes that respond to different situations we face.

Our memory verse tells us that we should be quick to listen, but slow to speak or get angry. This isn't talking about how fast we talk, but the way we react to the things that happen to us. Being quick to listen and slow to speak or become angry means that our "reflex," or what we do first when someone upsets us, is to listen to them, not immediately speak or get angry with them. When someone does something to you that you don't like or understand, do you listen to what they have to say and let them explain themselves, or do you get angry and have to say something to them?

The reason the verse tells us to be slow to speak or get angry is because doing these things can often lead to trouble. Usually when we get upset, the temptation is to get angry or say something that is not good. How many of us have gotten in trouble before because we said something we shouldn't have said or got angry and did something bad to someone? Maybe your parents asked you to do a chore and you talked back to them,

In the Word (Continued)

or maybe someone hit you by mistake and you got mad and hit them back. When we are quick to speak or get angry, it can lead to big problems.

Instead, James encourages us to listen first. Being quick to listen means that when someone says or does something we don't like or understand, instead of saying whatever we want to say, we hear what the other person has to say and try to understand why they did it. Many times, if we listen we will discover that the thing they did was an accident or that they didn't mean what we thought they meant. If we speak quickly, we are probably going to say something we shouldn't, but when we are quick to listen, it can keep us from all sorts of trouble. Of course this won't be easy, but if we ask for the Lord's help, He will make us quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

"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

- Before you say something to the other team, think about whether or not it is kind.
- When the refs make a call you don't like, don't get angry or yell at them. Listen to them and follow their directions.
- If you get pushed or tripped, don't get mad and push the other player back. They might not have meant to do it.

Off the Court

- Whenever you want to say something, stop and think first. Is what you are about to say true, kind, and helpful? If not, don't say it.
- When you get upset, don't speak right away. Try to understand what happened before saying anything.
- Listen to parents and teachers, and don't get angry or talk back when they tell you to do something.

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. 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 likely be several situations when things happen that might upset your players. Encourage them to react by listening before speaking or getting angry.