

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 2

Truth vs. Lying

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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 look at what it means to tell the truth and why we should do it.

Scripture Passage:

“Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.”

Ephesians 4:25

Coaches Guide

In Ephesians 4:25, Paul (the writer of Ephesians) tells us that one way we can put off the old man and put on the new man is by getting rid of all lying and instead telling the truth. Both of these things are necessary because if we try to tell the truth but have lies mixed in, or if we stop lying but don't tell the whole truth, we are not actually being truthful at all. Half-truths, misleading statements, and leaving out part of the truth are in reality not truth at all. This verse is not simply asking us to make technically true statement or avoid bold lies, but to speak in such a way that we are always looking to lead others to the full truth.

Paul says that we should do this because we are members of one another. By this, he means that we as believers are like different parts of one body. If a man's eyes lie to the rest of his body and do not tell the him there is a hole in front of him, they would put the whole body in danger of harm. Likewise, when we lie to our fellow believers in the Body of Christ, we risk hurting not only the person we lie to, but other believers and even ourselves. God's design for the Church is to be a community where people tell the truth to one another.

There are many situations where telling the truth could cost you something. Owning up to mistakes can have consequences and cause others to think differently about you. Telling others truth they don't want to hear can hurt relationships. But honesty means telling the truth even when it's difficult, and truth is what honors the Lord.

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. Is it significant that Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:25 not to lie *and* to tell the truth? Why? Does telling the truth just mean not saying false statements, or is there more than that?
2. What reason does Paul give for telling the truth? Why does He use this analogy?
3. Have you ever experienced lies hurting you or those around you?
4. Name some situations when it can be hard to tell the truth. Why is it important to tell the truth in those situations?

On the Court

The old man wants to:

- Tell the ref that my team should get the ball, even though I know I touched it last.
- Pretend I was fouled, even though I know that no one touched me.

Instead, the new man will:

- Play an honest game that does not try to deceive the refs. Don't lie and say it's your ball when you know you touched it last or dive when no one touched you.

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Lie to authority figures when I do something wrong and don't want to get in trouble.
- Tell half-truths and try to trick people when the truth is hard to say.

Instead, the new man will:

- Admit my mistakes when I do something wrong.
- Tell the full truth, even when it's difficult.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:24. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:25 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. In sports, the people we most often are tempted to lie to are the refs. That doesn't mean we can't talk to the ref or ask for calls, but we should not try to trick the ref into making a call for us when we know it's not the right call.