

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

Last week, we looked at what it means to put off the old man (our old sin nature) and put on the new man (who we are in Christ). Today, we will look at our first example of that. In Ephesians 4:25, Paul tells us to remove lying from our lives and replace it with truth. The message of this verse is easy to understand, but actually obeying and telling the truth without lying is a different story.

Most of us know that lying is wrong, but sometimes we lie by not telling the full truth. For example, say your mom tells you to clean your room, but you only clean part of it. If you tell her that you cleaned your room, that's still a lie because even though you did clean part of your room, that's not the whole truth. Telling the truth is more than just not saying lies. Telling the truth means making sure that everything we say is completely true and is not meant to trick someone else.

The last part of our verse explains why telling the truth is such a big deal, especially with other Christians: we are members of one another (or parts of the same body). The Bible describes the Church as the Body of Christ and each individual Christian as a part of that Body. Since we are all part of the same Body, it's important to tell the truth to one another. Imagine if the parts of your body lied to one another. What if your eyes told your feet that the path in front of you was safe, but there was really a big hole in front of you? That would be dangerous, not only to your feet, but to the rest of your body too. The same way, when we lie to others,

In the Word (Continued)

and especially to other Christians, we can hurt not just them, but other Christians and even ourselves. The Church works best when we are telling the truth to one another. Imagine how great things would be if people always told one another the truth! That is God's design for the Church.

Telling the truth is not always easy. We might have to be honest about a mistake we made or tell a friend something they don't want to hear. Before we knew Jesus, our old man would lie in those situations, but we know that as Christians, we need to get rid of the old man and put on the new man by telling the truth. That doesn't just mean being truthful when it's easy. Honesty is telling the truth even when it's hard. As members of the Body of Christ, we should seek to honor God by putting away lying and telling the truth in all circumstances.

"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

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. When you know the ball should go to the other team, don't try to say it should be yours.

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Hide the truth from parents or teachers when I do something I know will get me 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.

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, 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. Telling the truth to the refs doesn't mean telling them to give the other team the ball, but rather playing in a way that we do not try to deceive them for our advantage.