

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 3

Anger

Anger

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 the difference between righteous and selfish anger and the proper response to our anger.

Scripture Passage:

“Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”

Ephesians 4:26-27 (Memory verse, Ephesians 4:26, in **bold**)

In the Word

This season, we have been looking at different ways we can put off the old man (our old, sinful way of life before we knew Jesus) and putting on the new man (our new way of life now that we know Jesus). Last week, we talked about putting off lying and putting on the truth. Today, our topic will be anger. Now before we get started, we need to answer an important question: is anger a sin? After all, Jesus got angry. In fact, one time He got so angry about men who were ripping others off and selling things in the temple that he turned over their tables and drove those men out.

If Jesus got angry, then anger must not be a sin. Our memory verse today, Ephesians 4:26, doesn't say, “don't be angry.” It says, “Be angry, but don't sin.” The problem is, many times anger can lead to sin. Can you think of a time that anger led you to do something that was wrong? Anger can be good or bad depending on two things: why we are angry, and how we respond to that anger.

There are two different kinds of anger. First, there is selfish, sinful anger. Selfish anger gets upset when we don't get our way. For example, if we get angry when someone else gets something that we wanted, that is selfish anger. On the other hand, Jesus shows us what good anger looks like. In the story we mentioned earlier, Jesus got mad because the people in the temple were dishonoring the Lord and hurting others. His anger was against sin. Sin should make us angry, so when we are mad at sin, it is the good kind of anger.

In the Word (Continued)

But it's not enough just to have a good reason to be angry. We need the right response as well. If we get angry at sin, but our response is to hurt other people, we end up just as bad as the other person. But when Jesus got angry, He used His anger to fight against sin. He didn't turn over tables to hurt the sinners, but to stop the sin. Our anger should lead us to fight against sin. Sometimes, that might mean telling the person who is sinning to stop. Other times, you may end up leaving a person or place that is tempting you to sin. The last thing to see is the last part of the verse, which tells us not to let the sun go down on our anger or give place to the devil. It is okay to be angry if sin for a short time, but if we stay angry for too long, it can lead us into all kinds of problems. Do your best to resolve your anger as quickly as possible so that it doesn't lead to sin.

"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:

- Get angry at calls I don't agree with, the other team playing well, or teammates not giving me the ball.
- Yell at, make fun of, or hurt others when I get angry.

Instead, the new man will:

- Get angry only at sin, such as disrespect to refs or opponents.
- When I see sin, respond in a way to try to stop the sin, not hurt others.

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Get angry when I don't get my way or when others get something that I wanted.
- Respond to anger with sinful words and actions.

Instead, the new man will:

- Get angry only at sin, not for selfish reasons.
- Use right anger to fight against sin and look for a solution.
- Not stay angry for long.

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 4:25. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:26 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Anger and frustration are often part of sports. When players get angry this week, ask them why they are angry and what they are doing about their anger. Help them to make wise choices about their anger.
4. If your player has conflict with someone else, encourage them to make things right soon and not let the sun go down on their anger.