

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 10-18 year olds

Week 3

*Good Soldiers of Jesus*

# Good Soldiers of Jesus

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 kids that, like a soldier, our number one priority is to please Jesus, our Commanding Officer.

## Scripture Passage:

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:3-4

## Coaches Guide

This season, we have been studying what it means to be strong in grace. To explain what that means, in 2 Timothy 2:3-4 Paul uses the analogy of a soldier. These verses make two points about being a soldier. First, soldiers endure suffering. They don't give up when things get tough. Second, soldiers can't get distracted by the things that ordinary civilians think about. Their focus has to be on following orders. A soldier does all this because their number one priority is to obey their commander.

Like soldiers, we as Christians have a Commander. It is our duty to follow and obey Him no matter what He asks. Sometimes He asks us to do something difficult like love our enemies, or life gets tough and it becomes hard to keep following Him, but like good soldiers we must endure. Other times we might not feel like following Jesus, perhaps because worldly things like friends, money, and competition get in the way. As soldiers, we can't let our own desires get in the way of obeying our Commander. Following Jesus must be our number one priority.

Our world tells us that the most important thing in life is to do what we want and make ourselves happy, but that's not what the Bible teaches. Here in these verses, we see that our number one goal should be to please Jesus. That can be really hard, but think of all He's done for us: He created us, died for us, forgives our sins, and gives us life and blessings every day. Since He's done all that for us, being good soldiers and giving Him our whole lives is the least we can do.

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. What does 2 Timothy 2:3-4 compare the Christian life to? How is being a Christian similar to being a soldier?
2. What is a soldier's most important job? How does that relate to being a Christian?
3. What are some challenges to obeying Jesus? What are situations when it is difficult to follow Him? Can you think of a time when you obeyed Jesus even though it was difficult?
4. Why should we obey Jesus even when it's difficult?

## On the Court

- Sometimes it's harder to obey Jesus when you are losing or the calls don't go your way, but we must continue to live for Him no matter what happens.
- If the ref makes a bad call, our natural reaction is to get angry and yell at them, but we need to respond in a way that pleases our Commanding Officer.

## Off the Court

- Sometimes we would rather hang out with friends or watch TV than read our Bibles, but it's more important to obey Jesus than to do what we want.
- God sets our parents as Commanders over us too. Obey them even if they ask you to do something you don't want to do.
- If your friends tempt you to do something you know is wrong, remember that the Lord is your Commander, not them.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 2 Timothy 2:3-4 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Have the kids share a situation where it's difficult to please Jesus. Pray and ask God to help them in those situations.