

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 3

Put On Love

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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 use Christ's example to show the kids what real, biblical love is.

Scripture Passage:

"But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."

Colossians 3:14

In the Word

When you meet someone new, how can you tell if they are a Christian? Is it the way they dress? How they talk? What they look like? Maybe a better question is, how can people tell that *you* are a Christian? Jesus answers that question in John 13:35, when said that the way the world will know that we are His followers is by our love for one another.

We've been learning this season about what we as God's chosen people should be like. We talked about how Christians are compassionate, humble, and forgiving. Colossians 3:14 says that the most important thing a Christian needs is love. But what does the word love actually mean? People use the word "love" all the time, whether they are talking about loving their family, their dog, or even pizza. So is love just a fuzzy feeling we have inside when we really, really like something or someone?

The Bible tells us that love is more than a feeling. Love is when you truly, deeply care about someone, and you show it with your actions. It means putting the needs of others above our own and doing things to bless them, even if it costs you something. But perhaps the best way to understand what love means is to look at the life of Jesus.

We know that Jesus loves us not just by His words, but by His actions. He loves us so much that when He saw us trapped in our sin, He did something about it. He left the glory and comfort of heaven to come to earth and be born as a man. He then loved us enough to die for us on a cross in order to save us from our sins. Not only that, but Romans 5:8 says

In the Word (Continued)

that He did all of that while we were still sinners. He proved His love by dying for us even though we were His enemies and didn't deserve it. We can follow in Christ's example by loving others with our actions, even if it costs us something and even if the other person is difficult to love.

Now our verse says that love is the most important of all the things we've learned about so far this year. Why do you think that is? It's because when we are loving others, we will end up doing all the other things too. If you love someone, you will forgive them when they do something wrong, feel compassion for them when they're hurting, be patient when they make mistakes, treat them kindly, be humble, and be gentle. That's why Colossians 3:14 calls love, "the bond of perfection," the thing that holds everything else together.

"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

- Jesus said that the world will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. Think about the way you treat others on the basketball court. Would someone be able to tell you are a Christian by your actions?
- When you get frustrated with other players or the refs on the court today, remember that they are your brothers and sisters in Christ, and that we are called to love one another.

Off the Court

- You could show love to someone who doesn't have many friends by taking time this week to hang out with them.
- Sometimes our family can be the hardest people to love. Show your parents love by doing something for them without being told, or love your siblings by doing what they want rather than what you want.
- Jesus says to love our enemies. How do you treat those who are difficult to love?

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, Colossians 3:13, "Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:14 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Have the kids think of something they can do to show love to someone who needs it this week. Ask them about it next week.