

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4-9's

Sports Devos

Week 3

...With All Your Heart...

...With All Your Heart...

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 To show the players that the sin in our hearts is the greatest obstacle to loving the Lord.

Scripture Passages:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23 (Memory Verse)

"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9

In the Word

Now that we have talked about who God is and why we should love Him, today we will look at the first way we are to love God, which is with all our hearts. When Jesus said this, He wasn't talking about the organ that pumps blood in our bodies. In the Bible, the heart represents who we are inside. The heart is who and what we love, what we want, and what we care about.

Most people today think that humans are naturally good and will do the right thing. Almost everyone considers themselves a "good person." But this is not what the Bible teaches. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us that our hearts are wicked and deceitful. That is because they are full of sin, and sin is what stops us from loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Sin is any word, thought, or action that breaks God's laws. Every person has sin in their hearts. Our natural desire is to do the wrong thing.

Think about it. When your brother, sister, or friend hits you, do you want to hit them back, or is it easier to show self-control? When our parents or guardians tell us to clean our rooms, do we usually want to listen or not? We all can admit that our hearts want to do the wrong thing, that it is much easier to do what we want than to do what God wants.

Our memory verse today says the wages of sin is death. A wage is another word for a paycheck. People work hard so they can get that paycheck at the end of the week. So when the Bible says that the wages of sin is death, that means that if we choose to live a life of sin, the reward or "paycheck" we get at the end of our lives is death—eternal separation from God!

In the Word (Continued)

This seems like terrible news! We are not supposed to live in sin, yet our hearts are full of it. Thankfully, Jesus takes care of that problem with the gift of eternal life. Last week, we saw that Jesus' death on the cross took care of the punishment for sin and death, and he let us receive that gift of eternal life. But did you know that Jesus also gives us the power to live for Him today? By ourselves, we will constantly fall into sin, but Jesus gives us the power to live rightly before Him. In order to love the Lord with all our hearts, we must stop trying to do the right thing on our own. Instead, we need to trust Jesus to give us the power to obey and follow God.

"On the Field" gives some in-game situations where today's lesson can be applied, while "Off the Field" gives examples from everyday life. Encourage them to do the things you listed during the game today.

On the Field

- When an opponent pushes or trips us, our hearts tell us to push them back. Encourage one another to instead respond in love.
- Likewise, when the referee makes a call we don't agree with, our hearts want to argue and complain. Help your teammates to exhibit self-control during those situations.

Off the Field

- All of us have a sin in our lives that we struggle with regularly. Share that sin with another believer and ask that person to pray for you regularly. Have them ask you how you have been doing in that area later.
- Only Jesus can give us the power to obey God. Rather than trying to fight sin on our own, start each day in prayer that Jesus would give you the power to obey the Lord and follow Him.

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, Romans 5:8. Anyone who can recite it to you will get a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 6:23 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Make it a point that your team will exhibit self-control today. No matter what happens, as a team commit to honoring God through it. Before the game, pray that Jesus would give you the strength to love Him with all your heart.