

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 4

Building Up Others

Building Up Others

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 encourage the players to use their speech to build others up (edify) and not tear them down.

Scripture Passage:

“Don't let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.”

Ephesians 4:29 (NIRV)

Coaches Guide

Today we are going to look at our words. Ephesians 4:29 talks about two different kinds of speech: evil talk and speech that builds up (many versions use the word “edifies”). Evil talk is any way we use our words to sin, while edifying speech is speech that honors God.

There are many different things that fall under evil talk: lying, crude jokes, insults, gossip, slander, disrespect, complaining, and blasphemy are just some examples. Any person can look at that list and find at least one or two sins that they really struggle with.

Edifying speech would include things like telling the truth, thanking people, encouraging others, complimenting, being polite, and of course sharing the Gospel. In our verse, Paul uses the analogy of building to show how our speech can affect others. When we use good speech to others, we are like a construction worker who builds up a building. Evil speech, on the other hand, tears down like someone who destroys a building. The point is that our speech can have a powerful effect on others, either for good or for evil.

The best way to combat evil speech is not just to try hard not to say bad things, but to replace it with edifying speech. Instead of complaining, we should look for ways to give thanks to others. We can replace insults and slander with compliments and encouragement. Crude jokes and inappropriate speech should give way to discussions about the Word of God. Whatever our struggle is, we should look to replace our bad speech habits with speech that builds up others and honors the Lord.

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.

Team Discussion

1. What are the two kinds of speech in Ephesians 4:29? What is "evil talk"? What is speech that builds up?
2. What are some examples of different kinds of evil talk? Do you struggle with any of these in particular?
3. Why does this verse describe good talk as "building up"? How is the analogy helpful? What kind of speech "builds up"?
4. What are ways we can replace evil talk with speech that builds up others?

On the Court

The old man wants to:

- Trash talk other players.
- Speak disrespectfully to my coach or the refs.
- Criticize teammates who make mistakes in the game.

Instead, the new man will:

- Compliment and respect the refs and the other team.
- Encourage my teammates.

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Disrespect parents and teachers.
- Make fun of unpopular kids.
- Tell inappropriate jokes.
- Complain about everything.

Instead, the new man will:

- Respect adults.
- Encourage others, especially if they don't have many friends.
- Be thankful to others.

"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.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:26. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:29 (NIRV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Our emphasis this week is on the way we talk to others. Acknowledge those who use godly speech and call out players who tear others down.
4. We as coaches need to be the example of edifying speech. Make sure that you are setting the example for the players on how we use our mouths.

These are some final notes/goals to accomplish this week. These are not meant to be read, but are instructions for the coach.