

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 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.

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 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)

## In the Word

So far this season, we have talked about putting off the old man by dealing with sins (such as lying or selfish anger) and replacing those sins with the good deeds of the new man (like telling the truth or having righteous anger). Today, we are going to focus on our words. Ephesians 4:29 tells us to get rid of evil talk and replace it with speech that builds others up.

So what is evil talk? Evil talk is any way we speak that dishonors the Lord or breaks one of His commands. This includes lying, complaining, gossip, making fun of others, telling rude jokes, disrespecting God, using bad words, and more. While you might not struggle with everything on that list, all of us can find at least one or two sins that really tempt us. Let's read through the list again and have each of us try to think of one that we want to work on.

Instead of evil talk, our verse tells us to use our mouths for good. Good talk includes telling the truth, encouraging others, giving thanks, and praising the Lord. When we do this, the Bible says we are building others up. To understand what it means to build others up, imagine if every person was a building. When we encourage others or tell the truth (build them up), it is like we are making that person's building bigger and stronger. But when we lie, gossip, or make fun, it is as if we are tearing that person's building down. Just as we would want others to build us up and not tear us down, we should do the same for them.

## In the Word (Continued)

As we've said all season, the best way to fight evil speech is not to try our best not to say something bad, but to look for ways we can use our words for good. Do you use your speech to discourage others? Try to find ways to compliment them instead. Do you complain a lot? Look for ways you can tell others that you're thankful. Are you disrespectful to adults? Instead find ways you can honor them. Do you tell jokes about yucky things or use bad words? Replace that evil talking with words about Jesus.

Using our mouths for good is a difficult battle we face all the time. Throughout the game today, each of us will be tempted to say things that will tear others down. But we all know how much better it feels to be built up than to be torn down. We don't want to be breakers. We want to be builders. Let's all do our best to build up others today.

"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:

- Make fun of other players.
- Speak disrespectfully to my coach or the ref.
- Criticize teammates who make mistakes in the game.

Instead, the new man will:

- Speak kindly to the other team.
- Thank the coaches and refs.
- Encourage my teammates.

### Off the Court

The old man wants to:

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

Instead, the new man will:

- Be polite to adults.
- Encourage others, especially if they don't have many friends.
- Thank others when they do something nice for us.

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 4:26. 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. When players use their words for good, acknowledge it. When they misuse their speech, encourage them to rethink what they have said.
4. We as coaches need to be the example of edifying speech. Make sure that you are building up and not tearing down today.