

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 4

Favoritism

Favoritism

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 players not to treat people with favoritism by looking at James 2:1-4.

Scripture Passage:

“My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, ‘Here’s a good seat for you,’ but say to the poor man, ‘You stand there’ or ‘Sit on the floor by my feet,’ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”

James 2:1-4, NIV (Memory Verse, James 2:1, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

James 2:1-4 addresses the topic of favoritism. Favoritism refers to any time we treat someone differently based on the way they look, dress, talk, or act. James tells us that as believers, we should reject favoritism.

Verses 2-4 illustrate favoritism by imagining two visitors coming to a church. The first is rich and well-dressed, while the second is poor and is wearing old, dirty clothes. When the people in the church see the rich man, they invite him to sit in the best seat, but they ask the poor man to sit on the floor or stand somewhere else. Without getting to know either of the two men, these people treated one person better than the other based only on how they look.

It's very easy for us to fall into the same mistake. We might treat a person differently based on how they look, the way they dress, the things they like, or the way they talk. Perhaps we might exclude them from our social circles or make fun of them behind their backs. This is wrong, and it goes against the way Jesus lived. He was friends with sinners, the poor, the sick, and those that society had rejected. As James puts in in verse 1, believers in Jesus should live the same way and reject favoritism.

Not showing favoritism doesn't mean that everyone has to be your best friend. What it means is that whether someone is your friend or not, you treat them with kindness and respect, not judging them based on appearance or treating them any worse than you would treat a friend. God doesn't show favoritism, and so neither should we.

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. Have you ever been in a situation where you were treated differently than those around you? How did it make you feel?
2. What does James 2:1 warn us against? What is favoritism? What are some examples of it?
3. Read verses 2-4. Why is this wrong? What mistake did the people in this story make?
4. What are ways you might be tempted to show favoritism?
5. Why shouldn't we show favoritism? How can we follow Christ's examples and live lives without favoritism?

On the Court

- Get to know all your teammates, not just the ones who look, talk, or act like you.
- Don't just pass the ball to the best player or your friends. Give it to anyone who's open.
- Remember that God doesn't show favoritism. He loves your team and the other team, and so you should treat your opponents with respect.

Off the Court

- Don't exclude others from your group of friends, but rather invite others to join you.
- When you meet someone new, give them a chance. Don't judge them before getting to know them.
- Stick up for those who are bullied or unpopular. Others might reject them, but you should not.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, James 1:22. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 2:1 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Encourage your players not just to talk to their good friends on the team, but to get to know a teammate they don't know very well today.