

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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**)

In the Word

How many of you guys like getting snacks after the game? Imagine feel if I made a tray of warm, delicious cookies for everyone on the team... except for you! Instead, you got cold, mushy broccoli. How would you feel? Would you still want to be on the team? It's not fun when someone treats certain people better than others. That's called favoritism, and James talks about it in James 2:1-4.

James tells us that Christians should not show favoritism, and he gives an example of what it looks like in verses 2-4. He imagines two visitors coming into a church for the first time. The one is dressed in nice clothes, and everyone invites him to sit in the best seat. The other man is dressed in dirty old clothes, and he is told to stand far away or sit on the floor. The people in the church didn't know anything about either of these two men, but they treated them differently because one looked rich and cool, but the other looked poor. When we read that story, we all were probably thinking, "Hey, that's not right!" We know it's wrong when we see other people showing favoritism. The problem is, sometimes we do the same thing.

We show favoritism whenever we treat someone differently just because of the way they look, dress, talk, or act. Do you make fun of people who are not like you? At school, do you let anyone play with you at recess, or do you only play with the "cool kids" and exclude others? When you meet a new kid who's not like you, do you give them a chance to be

In the Word (Continued)

your friend, or do you decide you don't like them because of how they look, talk, or act? These are all examples of favoritism. James warns us that treating some people worse than others just because they aren't like us is wrong and reveals sin in our own heart.

Instead of treating people differently, we should follow the example of James' brother Jesus. Jesus loved all sorts of people. He was loved by people who were poor and rich, popular and unpopular, righteous and sinful. We should do the same. Does that mean that you have to be best friends with everyone? No, of course you will be better friends with some people, but whether someone is your close friend or not, you should treat them with kindness. After all, God loves that person, so you should love them too.

"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

- Don't just pass to your friends or the best player on the team. Give the ball to anyone who's open.
- Make sure you are kind and get to know all your teammates, not just your friends.
- 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

- Is there someone at your school who does not have many friends or gets treated unkindly? Be kind to them and try to be their friend. Stick up for them when others are mean to them.
- When other kids want to play with you, don't exclude them. Even better, invite others to join your friends.
- Don't decide you don't like someone just because they are different from you. Get to know them.

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, 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. Tell your team to choose one player on the team that they haven't gotten to know very well and encourage them to take time to get to know them and try to do something kind for them.