

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 10-18 year olds

Week 4

*Playing by the Rules*

# Playing by the Rules

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 kids that God is the one who decides how we should live, not us.

## Scripture Passage:

“And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”

2 Timothy 2:5

## Coaches Guide

To further help us understand what it means to be strong in grace, in 2 Timothy 2:5 Paul compares the Christian life to an athlete. In sports, we have rules so that all athletes can play a safe, fair game. If we didn't have rules, the game would be chaos! The referee determines whether or not the rules have been broken and penalizes those who do break the rules. It doesn't matter what the players or coaches think the call or rule should be. It is the ref's decision.

The same is true in the Christian life. As believers, we don't get to decide right and wrong or how we should live. God does. He has given us His rules in His Word, and it's up to us to follow them. There is blessing in obeying the Lord, but when we disobey, there are consequences.

We live in a world that sees rules as oppressive. The world tells us to live the way we want and never let anyone tell you what to do, but this goes against what God wants for us. God doesn't make rules to oppress or control us. They are for our good. For instance, God tells us not to lie because He knows that the world will be a better place when we tell the truth to one another, whereas lying will get us into trouble.

To live by God's rules, first we need to know them. We do that by studying His Word. But it's not enough just to know what God wants. We then have to obey His Word. Living God's way sometimes means saying no to what you want, but there is always blessing in following the Lord. We need to live God's way, not our own way.

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. Why do we have rules in basketball? Who gets to determine whether or not a rule was broken?
2. How are rules in sports similar to the Christian life?
3. Do people today normally think of rules as a good thing? Do you think it's good that God gives us rules to live by? How do they help us? How do we know what God's rules are?
4. What are examples of situations when what you want is different from what God wants? What should you do in those situations?

### On the Court

- Speak to opponents the way God's Word tells us to, not how your emotions feel.
- Your natural response to bad calls might be to yell at the refs, but instead you should honor them and treat them with love.
- Respect the decisions of your coaches and do what they tell you, not what you want to do.

### Off the Court

- Study God's Word at home every day so that you can know how God wants you to live.
- God's Word tells us to love our enemies. It's not easy to be kind to those who are unkind to you, but we are blessed when we do.
- Spend your time in ways that please the Lord rather than always doing what you want to do.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 2:3-4, "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 2 Timothy 2:5 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize to the kids this week that "playing by God's rules" means reading Scripture and doing what it says.