

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 4

The Peace of God

The Peace of God

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 kids the importance of peace in the Body of Christ.

Scripture Passage:

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

Colossians 3:15

In the Word

Think about all the parts of the body you use to shoot a basketball. You use your legs to move around the court, your feet to jump or stand, your hands and arms to throw the ball, your eyes to see the basket. All of those body parts have to work together just right so that you can get the ball into the hoop. In fact, your body parts need to work together for you to do just about everything: run, eat, read, play, and more.

Now you might not know this, but the Bible tells us that Christians are actually a lot like a body. Just as you have many parts of your body that look different and do different jobs, the Church (the Christian community) is made up of many people who have different gifts and abilities, and we all work together to do the work of the Lord. That's why Colossians 3:15 calls us “one body.”

But imagine what would happen if, instead of working together, all of your body parts were fighting with each other. It would be impossible to do anything! Unfortunately, sometimes the Body of Christ acts like that. Sometimes, instead of working together, Christians fight against one another. When Christians act like this, it keeps us from doing the things that God wants us as His chosen people to do. That's why our memory verse tells us that we must let the peace of God rule in our hearts.

Peace is when people are living in harmony, with nothing getting between them or causing them to fight against each other. Letting the peace of God rule among us means that Christians should be unified,

In the Word (Continued)

working together to do the things God tells us and not letting fights or arguments divide us from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

It's not always easy to live at peace with other Christians. There will be times when someone bothers you or hurts your feelings, or times when you upset somebody else, and if you're not careful, that could lead to fighting and division. That's why we need to work hard to let the peace of God rule in our hearts. How can we do that? By putting others and their happiness before our own and being willing to give things up or let them have their own way. By apologizing and making things right when we hurt others and forgiving people when they wrong us. Doing these things is hard, but when we live this way, the peace of God will be ruling over our hearts and we will be better able to love and serve God.

"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

- Even though you're competing against the other team today, they're still your brothers and sisters in Christ. Play hard, but don't let what happens on the court cause division between you and them.
- Your teammates may do things that upset you. Remember that you are all part of the same Body of Christ, and work to keep peace among you.
- Don't forget, the refs are still your fellow believers.

Off the Court

- If you've done something to hurt or offend another believer, apologize and make things right so that you can have peace with them.
- If another believer has done something to hurt or offend you, forgive them.
- If you have a choice between having things your way and keeping peace with someone else, choose peace.

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, Colossians 3:14, "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:15 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize the importance of peace and unity in the Body of Christ this week. When one of your players is upset by a teammate, opponent, ref, or spectator, be proactive to make peace.