

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 5

Kind and Forgiving

Kind and Forgiving

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 show how a godly community is one where believers are kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.

Scripture Passage:

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. **And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**”

Ephesians 4:31-32 (memory verse, Ephesians 4:32, in **bold**)

In the Word

As we continue to look at how to put off the old man's sinful ways and put on the new man as followers of Jesus, we are going to focus today on how Christians should treat one another. In Ephesians 4:31-32, Paul describes two kinds of communities: one ruled by the old man in verse 31, and one filled with the new man in verse 32.

Let's start by looking at the list in verse 31. We have already talked about some of these things this season (anger and evil speaking). Some of the other words might be unfamiliar. Bitterness is when someone stores hate in their heart toward someone else. Wrath is a fierce kind of anger that wants to hurt someone. Clamor refers to lots of shouting. Malice is when people try to harm others on purpose. Would you want to be a part of a community that is always angry, shouting, and trying to hurt each other? Of course not! Yet whenever we hold a grudge, get into a fight, or get so mad at someone that we speak badly about them or try to hurt them, we are creating that kind of a community.

Verse 32 gives a much nicer picture. In this community, people are kind to one another. This means treating others as we want to be treated, doing what is right, and making people happy. Such a community is also tenderhearted, which means thinking about the ways others feel instead of always thinking about yourself. Finally, when someone in this sort of community is hurt, they forgive and continue to treat the person who hurt them with kindness, knowing that Jesus has forgiven them.

In the Word (Continued)

We all would rather be a part of the community in verse 32. Our basketball team, church, home, and school will all look better when we are living that way. But when someone else hurts or mistreats you, it's hard to be kind, forgiving, and tenderhearted. Our hearts want to respond with hate and evil speaking. But those are the times it is most important to be kind and forgive. All of us will face people mistreating us, whether by accident or on purpose, our whole lives. It is in those situations that we must choose to put off the anger and evil speaking of the old man and put on the kindness and forgiveness of the new man. This will not be easy, especially when it feels like the other person doesn't deserve to be forgiven. But that's when the end of verse 32 becomes important: Christ forgave us when we were undeserving, so we should forgive others 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

The old man wants to:

- Respond to teammates who do or say something that bothers me by yelling at them.
- Hold a grudge against any teammates who do bad things to me.

Instead, the new man will:

- Show kindness to teammates who get on my nerves.
- Forgive teammates who are unkind to me.

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Respond in anger when my brother or sister annoys me.
- Make fun of hurt people whom I don't like and hold hate in my heart.

Instead, the new man will:

- Forgive my siblings when they do something wrong to me.
- Show kindness to others, even those I don't get along with.

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 4:29 (NIRV). Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:32 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize the community of your team this week. Before the game, make it your goal to be a team that is kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving. At the end of the game, evaluate how you have done. Having such a community not only pleases the Lord, but will make your team more effective.