

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 year olds

Week 5

*Let the Word of Christ Dwell Richly*

# Let the Word of Christ Dwell Richly

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 encourage the kids to study the Bible and apply it to every aspect of their lives.

## Scripture Passage:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Colossians 3:16

## In the Word

Who here wants to be a great basketball player? If you want to get better at basketball, what do you have to do? Is showing up to a game once a week going to be enough? If you want to get better at basketball, you need to practice as much as you can. The more you practice, the better you'll get. In today's verse, we see that the Christian life is the same way. If you want to grow in your faith, you need to be reading, studying, and obeying the Word of God.

Colossians 3:16 tells us to let the Word of Christ (the Bible) dwell in us richly. What that means is that, if we want to follow Jesus and truly know Him, we need to let the Bible touch every part of our lives. It can't just be a book we pick up on Sundays and then forget about during the rest of the week. We should constantly be reading it, thinking about it, and doing what it says. The more time we give to God's Word, the more we will get to know God and what He wants from our lives.

So what would it look like to let Christ's Word dwell richly in us? First, we should spend time each day reading God's Word. You might not be old enough to read the Bible on your own yet, but you could ask a parent, grandparent, or older sibling to read it to you or have a family Bible study. Then, we should live our life according to what the Bible says. The Bible teaches us all kinds of things God wants us to say and do. Once we read these things in His Word, we should put them into practice in our homes, at school, with our friends, and wherever else we go.

## In the Word (Continued)

Another way to let the Word dwell richly is to talk about the Bible with others. When you're with your friends or sitting at the dinner table with your family, try talking about the Lord or the things you've read in His Word. Finally, we can let the Word dwell in us through worship music. Our verse talks about singing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs. Christian music is a powerful tool that can help set our hearts and minds on Jesus and on the truths we learn about Him in Scripture. Listening to and singing worship music is another great way to let God's Word dwell in us.

Just as practicing makes us better basketball players, the more we study, think about, and obey the Word of God, the stronger our walk with the Lord will be. We should always look for ways to spend more time in God's Word so that we can grow in our faith.

"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

- Take the devotion time seriously. Basketball is a good thing, but learning about the Lord is even more important.
- The Bible should affect every area of your life, including the way you play basketball. What do you think the Bible has to say about the way you play?
- If you see a teammate doing something that goes against God's Word, remind them about what the Bible says.

### Off the Court

- Church shouldn't be the only place you read the Bible. Spend time with your family reading God's Word throughout the week.
- Joining or starting a Bible study with your friends is a great way to spend more time in God's Word.
- Listen to worship music in order to fill your mind with biblical truth.

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 3:15, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:16 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Since kids in these age groups are younger and may not be able to read the Bible on their own, encourage them in other ways they can make God's Word a part of their lives, such as having family Bible reading time or listening to worship music.