

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

10-18's

Sports Devos

Week 5

Sincere Love

One Body

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 show that Christian love means loving the Lord zealously and loving others sincerely and above ourselves.

Scripture Passage:

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”

Romans 12:9-11, NIV (Memory Verse, Romans 12:9-10, **in bold**)

Coaches Guide

We live in a culture that doesn't know what love is. Some think that love is unconditional acceptance of anything, including sin. Others can only see love in romance. Here in these verses, Paul gives us the biblical definition of love, one that is much needed in our culture. In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus tells us that the two most important commandments are to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments are inseparable, as you can't truly do one without the other. In these verses, Paul shows us how to love God and love other people.

Loving God means hating evil and clinging to good. Doing just one of these is insufficient. If we don't seek both to destroy sin in our lives and replace it with doing good, we will succeed at neither. Verse 11 tells us that we must also love God by serving Him zealously. Loving God is not something you can do half-hearted. We must love Him with all our energy and all we have. We must work hard to love Him.

Our love for others must be sincere, or as the NKJV says, without hypocrisy. We cannot say that we love someone yet have our actions be contrary to that fact. Our words must match our actions. And what should those actions be like? We should love others to such an extent that we treat them better than we treat ourselves. These verses describe a true, committed love. On our own, this is impossible, but the Holy Spirit can give us the power to love in this 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.

Team Discussion

1. What does the world think that love means? How does that contrast to what the Bible says?
2. Who does the Bible tell us to love? How do these verses tell us to love God? How do they say to love others?
3. What does it mean to hate evil and love good? Why is it important to do both? To what extent must we do good?
4. What does sincere love look like? How do we treat others as better than ourselves?

"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

- Love your teammates sincerely. Don't just tell them that you care about them, but actively look for ways that you can treat them better than yourself.
- In basketball, hating evil means rejecting pride, selfishness, and mistreatment of teammates and opponents. Instead, cling to good things. Give God the glory, treat others as better than yourself, and be kind and encouraging to the other players.

Off the Court

- Think about a sin you struggle with. Rather than just trying not to do that thing (hating evil), think of a good thing to replace it with. For example, if you struggle with saying unkind things, replace them with encouragement.
- Choose someone in your life who is difficult to love. Plan a way you can treat them better than you treat yourself this week.

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, Romans 12:5. Anyone who can recite it to you will get a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:9-10 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Today's verses, as well as the Christian life in general, can be summed up in 4 words: love God, love people. Have each player make a goal of one way they can love God and one way they can love others today. At the end of the game, discuss whether or not you met your goals.