

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4-9's

Sports Devos

Week 5

...With All Your Mind...

...With All Your Mind...

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 To show the players the importance of loving Jesus with our thoughts and words.

Scripture Passage:

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Philippians 4:8, NIV (A, B, and C leagues will only memorize the bold portion)

In the Word

In our journey through Mark 12:30, we have looked at loving the Lord with all our heart and soul so far. In those studies, we talked about what stops us from loving God (sin) and how much we should love God (with everything). These next two weeks will be focused on what we should do in order to love God.

This week, we are looking at loving the Lord with our minds. This means using our thoughts and words. You might be thinking, "Hey, I thought minds were for thinking and mouths were for speaking. What does loving God with my mind have to do with the things I say?" That may be true, but Luke 6:45 says, "For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." What we think affects what we say. Today, we will look at both.

So how do we know which words and thoughts glorify God and which don't? Philippians 4:8 helps us figure that out. In that verse, Paul (the writer of Philippians) tells us to think about things that are true, noble (good), right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. Whenever a thought pops into our heads, we should think, "Does it fit that description?" When we want to say something, we should make sure it passes the Philippians 4:8 test.

Something important to notice is that Paul is not just telling us things *not* to say or think. He is not giving us a list of bad things to avoid. Instead, we should be trying to think and say good things. Not only are we not supposed to lie, but we should be saying things that are true. It's not enough just to keep from saying bad words. We should be using our words to encourage

In the Word (Continued)

others and be a blessing. Whenever we are tempted to think bad thoughts about somebody, not only should we stop, but we should replace those bad thoughts with good ones. It is important for us to make sure we are not just avoiding sinful words and actions, but actively pursuing right ones.

Loving the Lord with all our mind does not happen overnight. It takes time. Most likely, many or all of the players on this team will sin today with our words and thoughts. In fact, we probably already have. It is important for us to trust the Lord to help us guard our minds and mouths as we work hard to obey and honor Him. He will help us to love Him with all our minds.

“On the Field” gives some in-game situations where today’s lesson can be applied, while “Off the Field” gives examples from everyday life. Encourage them to do the things you listed during the game today.

On the Field

- Soccer brings with it the temptation to insult opponents and call names, criticize the refs, and even discourage teammates. Focus on preventing that behavior and calling out those who do it.
- Encouragement blesses everyone in a soccer game. Use your time on the field and especially on the sidelines to say kind words to your teammates, and even to your opponents.

Off the Field

- Lying, unthankfulness, gossip, teasing, and hatred are among the many ways we might struggle with misusing our thoughts and actions. Choose one of these to work on this week and run every thought and word through the “Philippians 4:8 test.”
- Not only should we seek to avoid sinful words and thoughts, but we should actively pursue godly ones. Think and talk about things that fit the description of Philippians 4:8.

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, Mark 8:36. Anyone who can recite it to you will get a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 4:8 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. While you obviously cannot know what your team is thinking, place a special emphasis on speech today. Create an environment of uplifting speech. Warn against and call out any sinful talking.
4. Teach the players the “Philippians 4:8 test”: do my thoughts and words reflect what Philippians 4:8 says?