

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4-9's

## Sports Devos

Week 6

*Enduring with Prayer*

# Enduring with Prayer

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 look at Romans 12:12-14 as a model for how Christians should deal with hard times.

## Scripture Passage:

"[Be] rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**"

Romans 12:12-14 (Memory Verse, Romans 12:14, **in bold**)

## In the Word

Many people think that the Christian message says that if you follow Jesus, your life will be great and easy. They believe that if you follow Jesus, you will be rewarded with money, good fortune, and anything else your heart desires. However, this is not what the Bible teaches. The Christian life is difficult. As believers, we face temptation to sin, the hardships of life, and sometimes even persecution. Here in Romans 12:12-14, Paul gives us some instruction as to how we deal with life's difficulties.

Verse 12 tells us to be rejoice in hope and patient in tribulation. While these two verses sound like they are describing opposite situations, in fact they both apply to times of difficulty. When times of tribulation (tribulation is a fancy word for hard times) come along, we are to be patient and watch to see what God might do. Instead of figuring out our own plan, we wait on God and seek His will. At the same time, we rejoice in hope: hope that God will come through , and also hope that no matter what happens, in the end we will be with God in heaven forever.

We are commanded to bless those who persecute us. Persecute means to do wrong to someone for what they believe. Sometimes, people will be mad at us simply because we are Christians. As Christians, we could face physical harm, broken friendships, loss, and other difficulties from such people. Our natural human tendency is to want to fight back, but here Paul says to respond with blessing, not cursing. This echoes what Jesus taught on the Sermon on the Mount. When others go against us for

## In the Word (Continued)

our faith, our response should always be to bless them and show them love and kindness. Not only does this prevent the situation from escalating, but it also is a good testimony to the unbeliever.

Perhaps the most important key to dealing with tough times according to this passage is to continue steadfastly in prayer. The words “continue” and “steadfastly” mean that we don’t just pray once and then hope for the best. Instead, when we have a problem, we must go to our heavenly Father and ask Him to help us through. Even when it doesn’t feel like prayer is working, we must keep relying on prayer. The Bible is filled with examples of God taking care of His people because they continued to pray. If we want to see God work in our situation, we need to offer persistent prayers.

“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

- Prayers don’t have to be long. When you get discouraged or frustrated in today’s game, pray a quick prayer asking God to help you through that situation.
- If other players are making fun of you or trash-talking, don’t fight back. Instead, respond with encouragement and blessing.
- If things don’t go your way this game, exercise patience. Know that God has much greater things in store for His children than winning a basketball game.

### Off the Court

- What is the greatest problem or struggle in your life right now? Pray for it continually. Commit to praying every day until the Lord answers your prayer.
- If there are people in your life who regularly mistreat you, think of ways you can bless them this week.
- We can’t rejoice in hope if we don’t know what our hope is. Look up some of the promises in the Bible that God promises to His children.

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 12:9-10. Anyone who can recite it to you will get a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:14 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. This would be a good week to take prayer requests and spend a little extra time praying for the needs of your players.
4. Focus on what we say to our teammates and our opponents this week. Remind your team that you can’t control what others say to or about you, but you can decide how you will respond.