

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 6

Humility

Humility

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 the foolishness of pride and blessings of humility by looking at James 4:6 and 10.

Scripture Passage:

“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble’... **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**”

James 4:6, 10 (Memory Verse, James 4:10, in **bold**)

In the Word

This season, we've learned all kinds of wisdom from the book of James. He's talked about being quick to listen, being a doer of God's Word, not showing favoritism, and controlling your tongue. In today's verse, James tells us not to be prideful, but humble.

Let's look at both of these words one at a time. First, what is pride? Pride is when you believe that you're the best and you want everyone else to know it. For example, a prideful person might brag about the good grades they get in school, the nice toys they have, or how good they are at doing something. When you are prideful, you might think that you don't need others, or even the Lord, to help you do something. In sports, pride can be a huge temptation. When you make a basket, do you run down the court saying you're the best? Do you think you're so good that you don't need your teammates' help, or even the Lord's help? That's pride.

Being humble, on the other hand, means that you think of the Lord and others above yourself. That doesn't mean you go around putting yourself down or saying you're the worst. Humility isn't having a low view of yourself, but a high view of others. When we are humble, we rely on God's strength, not our own, and go around not trying to make ourselves happy, but seeking to honor the Lord and bless other people.

Pride leads to all sorts of problems. James 4:6 says that God resists the proud, meaning that prideful people are going against God and can expect problems. When you are prideful, you forget that God is greater

In the Word (Continued)

and more powerful than any of us, and that every good thing we have is from Him. Proud people make those around them feel bad and can lose friends pretty quickly. Pride also can cause us to trust ourselves rather than trust the Lord since we think we're so great, and when we aren't trusting the Lord, we are bound to run into trouble.

On the other hand, those who are humble will receive grace, or undeserved gifts, from God. Our memory verse says that if we humble ourselves, He will lift us up. We don't need to tell others that we are great because God has blessed us with so many things already, like making us His sons and daughters. When we are humble, we are relying on the Lord's strength and power, not our own. I don't know about you, but I'd rather rely on God's great strength than on mine.

"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

- When you score a basket, give credit to the teammate who passed you the ball.
- When your team makes a good play or wins the game, don't boast. Thank the Lord for His blessings.
- Do what's best for the team, not what makes you look best. If you are covered and your teammate is open, pass them the ball and give them a shot.

Off the Court

- Are you good at school, music, art, dancing, or sports? Don't brag about your ability, but rather thank the Lord for giving you your abilities.
- Don't trust in your own strength to do things. In whatever you do, trust the Lord and ask for Him to help you.
- Instead of boasting about your own strengths, compliment your friends on what they're good at.

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, James 3:10. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 4:10 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Basketball is not about making yourself look good, but helping the team and honoring the Lord. Emphasize this in the way we play. Show the players how it's more important that the team do well than that one player scores points and gets all the glory. And in the end, it's not about the team's glory either, but the Lord's.