

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

## 4-9 year olds

Week 6

*Walking in Wisdom*

# Walking in Wisdom

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 team to make wise choices that please the Lord on how they spend their time.

## Scripture Passage:

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. **Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**”

Ephesians 5:15-17 (memory verse, Ephesians 5:17, in **bold**)

## In the Word

Ephesians 5:15-17 starts gives a command that uses a big word most of us probably don't know: we are told to walk circumspectly. Does anyone know what that means? The rest of verse 15 says that it means we should walk not like a fool, but like a wise person. But even that can be confusing. What does it mean to walk like a wise person? Is Paul talking about the way we walk from place to place, or does he mean something else?

Actually, this verse is compares the way we live to someone walking on a path. When we walk, there are all kinds of things we need to watch out for: holes to fall in, rocks to trip over, trees and poles to run into, or even dangerous people or wild animals. A wise person will look out for these dangers and avoid them, but a fool does not look where he is going. The same way, as we try to live our lives as the new man, we must be on the lookout sin and temptation that would keep us of God's path for us.

In verse 16, Paul talks about a specific kind of danger we face as Christians. This verse tells us to redeem the time because the days are evil. This means that we want to make the best use of our time. In our lives, we face many choices of how we want to spend our time. We can choose to spend it on evil things, such as bullying, watching bad movies, or fighting with others. We can use our time for good things like praying, reading our Bibles, going to Church, or telling others about Jesus. We can also do things that aren't evil, but aren't good either, such as playing video

## In the Word (Continued)

games or watching TV. Sometimes, we are tempted to do sinful things, but other times we are tempted to spend so much time on other things that we don't have enough time to do good. Redeeming the time means trying to make the best use of our time. That doesn't mean that we can never play games or do fun stuff, but we cannot allow these things to take away from the time we have to do good things which please the Lord.

Verse 17 sums everything up: we don't want to be unwise, but should try to figure out what God's will (what He wants us to do) is. We will be tempted to use our time unwisely, either by doing sinful things or by wasting time when we could be doing good things. Instead, we should understand how God wants us to use our time. We can do the things we enjoy, but we must first make sure we are using our time for good.

"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

The old man wants to:

- Joke around and distract others during devotion time.
- Use my time on the court to bring myself glory and on the bench to complain.

Instead, the new man will:

- Listen and participate during devotions.
- Play the game to glorify Jesus and encourage others while I'm on the bench.

### Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Spend all my time on video games, movies, and TV, and none on praying or reading my Bible.
- Skip church and play at home instead.

Instead, the new man will:

- Spend time every day in God's Word and prayer with my family.
- Look for as many opportunities as possible to spend time with believers and talk about Jesus.

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, Ephesians 4:32. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 5:17 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Ask the kids if they have a time where they regularly read the Bible and pray with their families. If not, encourage them to start one. Keep in mind that not all of the players come from believing families.