

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 7

As To the Lord

As To the Lord

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 teach the kids that we should live to please the Lord and not be worried about pleasing other people.

Scripture Passage:

“Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. **And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.**”

Colossians 3:22-23 (Memory verse, Colossians 3:23, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

Many of us struggle with worrying what others think about us, and so we change our behavior so that people will see us in a certain way. For your players, that might mean acting cool around their friends so people will like them, or working hard to impress a teacher or boss when they're around, only to goof off when they aren't looking. But today's verse says that what the Lord thinks of us is more important than what others think.

Colossians 3:22-23 was written to servants, and Paul tells them to work hard and obey, not in order to impress their masters, but to please the Lord. Their master might not see everything, but the Lord does, and it pleases Him when they work hard and serve their master well at all times.

The same idea applies to us. Everything we do should be done “as to the Lord,” meaning that we should aim to please Him in both what we do and the way we do it. What He thinks should matter to us more than what others think. As a kid/teen, that could look like obeying your parents and teachers at all times, not just when they're watching you, and being more concerned with whether or not your actions are right than if you look cool. Whatever you do should be done to please the Lord.

Living to please others can have dangerous consequences. It may lead to compromise and sin in order to fit in with others, cause us to cut corners when we think we can get away with something, and disappoint us when others don't see us as good enough. But living to please the Lord will always lead us to the right choice, and it pays off in the end.

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.

"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.

These are some final notes/goals to accomplish this week. These are not meant to be read, but are instructions for the coach.

Team Discussion

1. Do you ever worry about what others think about you? Who are some people that you want to impress? Do you ever act differently when they are around so that they will view you a certain way? Why?
2. According to Colossians 3:22-23, how should a servant serve their master? Who should they be trying to please?
3. How do these verses apply to our lives? What does it mean to do everything "as to the Lord"? What would that look like at home, school, with your friends, at work, in basketball, etc.?
4. What are some dangers in worrying what others think of you? Why is it better to work "as to the Lord"?

On the Court

- It doesn't matter if people see or recognize what you do on the court. Play to honor the Lord, not to be seen by others.
- Don't try to take advantage of the rules when you think the ref isn't looking. Play fairly at all times, because God cares about the way you play.
- At the end of the game, ask yourself if you think God was pleased by the way you played today.

Off the Court

- It's never worth it to sin and do something wrong in order to impress someone. Do what pleases the Lord, not what pleases others.
- In your schoolwork, chores, or job, don't just work hard when your teacher/parent/boss is watching. Work in a way that pleases the Lord.
- Keep in mind that God sees everything you do, both good and bad. Make choices that will please Him.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Colossians 3:20, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:23 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. This generation often tries to find their worth in what others think of them, which can shift and lead to disappointment when they don't measure up. Encourage them with the good news that God's love is unconditional, and that we should live for His approval.