

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 7

As To the Lord

Obey Your Parents

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 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**)

In the Word

Have you ever been in a classroom after the teacher left the room for a minute? What happened? Did kids start talking to each other? Get out of their seats? Fool around? Even though you know you're supposed to obey and do your schoolwork, when the teacher isn't looking, you might start acting differently because you think you can get away with it.

Many times in life, we act differently depending on who's watching. You might act cool when your friends are around, work hard and obey in front of your parents or teachers, and try to show off your basketball skills when your coach walks by. We do this because we care what other people think about us. We want them to think we're cool, smart, athletic, or hard-working. But the Bible tells us that we should care more about what God thinks about us than what others think.

Colossians 3:22-23 was written to servants, and it tells them that they should work hard and do what they're told, not just when their masters are watching, but at all times. Their goal should be to please the Lord by doing good work, not just impress their master so they can be rewarded. But these verses aren't just for servants. Our memory verse tells us that in whatever we do—whether that's playing basketball, doing schoolwork or chores, hanging out with friends, or anything else—our goal should be to please the Lord, not other people.

There are several reasons why doing everything in order to please the Lord is important. When you worry about what others think of you,

In the Word (Continued)

you might be tempted to do something you know is wrong in order to fit in and make people think you're cool. You could be disappointed if your friends don't think you're cool, athletic, or smart. If you only work hard when your parents or teachers are around, you won't do as good of a job on your homework and chores. But most of all, we should please the Lord because what He thinks of us has much bigger consequences than what others think, and that He rewards well those who please Him.

Our behavior should be the same no matter who is watching. In every situation, we should ask ourselves, "What does God want me to do? How does God's Word say I should act?" When we do that, we can have peace knowing that the One whose opinion matters the most is pleased with us.

"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

- 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 or parent 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.

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, 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.