

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4-9's

Sports Devos

Week 7

Compassion

Compassion

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 players about what compassion is and encourage them to practice it.

Scripture Passage:

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."

Romans 12:15

In the Word

Today's verse is quite simple to understand, but much harder to put into action. Paul calls us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. He is telling us that, instead of always caring only about how we feel, we should try to see how others are feeling and be with them both in their joy and their sadness. This is called compassion. According to Paul, we show compassion when we celebrate (rejoice) with those who are experiencing joy and cry (weep) with those who are sad.

One of the hardest parts of compassion is that it forces us to think about other people, not just ourselves. As we go throughout our days, we spend a lot of time thinking about how we feel. If you are feeling hungry, you ask for something to eat. If you are sad, you ask for someone or something to comfort you. When you get angry, you look for ways to express it. However, compassion asks us to go out and think about how other people are feeling. We can't be selfish and compassionate at the same time.

There are times when rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep is easy. When your team wins a game, no one has to tell you to celebrate with your teammates. But sometimes it's hard to have compassion. Is it easy to be happy for the other team when they beat you, or do you become jealous? When you are playing on a playground or at recess and you see someone crying or upset, do you continue to enjoy your game, or do you go over and see what's wrong? Compassion can be difficult sometimes.

In the Word (Continued)

We naturally want to make things all about ourselves. When you are sad, you want everyone else to be miserable with you. You don't usually think about things other people can be happy for because you're upset. When you're happy, you don't want to lose the feeling of joy by thinking about others who might be going through something tough. Compassion is hard, but the Bible tells us that it is an important part of the Christian life. So how do we show compassion? It might seem obvious, but the first step is to look and think about how others are feeling. You won't notice the sad person beside you if you're too focused on your own joy. Next, talk to them. Ask them how they are feeling. Offer to pray for them. Finally, if they are sad, offer them encouragement. If they are rejoicing, celebrate with them. That's what compassion is all about.

"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's easy to celebrate personal accomplishments, but instead of celebrating when you score or get a rebound today, rejoice with your teammates when they play well.
- If you win, have compassion on the other team and encourage them. Don't boast or taunt them. If you lose, celebrate the other team's accomplishments. Don't forget that they care about the game too.

Off the Court

- Try to notice people who are going through difficult times in their lives. They might be at school, in your neighborhood, on this team, or even in your own family. Talk to them, have compassion on them, and give them some encouragement.
- Jealousy can make it hard to rejoice with others sometimes. Be sure to celebrate the good things that happen to your friends and family, even if you don't benefit personally.

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 12:14. Anyone who can recite it to you will get a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:15 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize the importance of looking out for your teammates this week. Tell them to be on the lookout for people to have compassion on.
4. Win or lose, be sure to sincerely encourage and congratulate the other team. Remember that how they feel is no less important than how you and your team feel.