

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 7

*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.

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 encourage the players to think of and treat others as more important than themselves.

## Scripture Passage:

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4

## Coaches Guide

In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul tells us to put away pride and conceit and to put on humility. These two verses show us both the mindset (verse 3) and actions (verse 4) of a humble person.

Verse 3 tells us that someone who is humble does not have selfish ambition or conceit. In other words, the humble person does not see himself or his wants and needs as more important than others. Instead, he is lowly of mind and thinks of others as better than himself. It does not say to think of others as equals, but to view them as more important than yourself. Then in verse 4, Paul says a humble person should look to serve not only his own interests (needs and wants), but also others' interests.

Both the mindset of verse 3 and verse 4's actions are necessary. Someone who thinks himself better than others will not be able to look out for their interests above his own. Likewise, if we can't truly esteem others as better than ourselves if our actions don't match up. Those who think of others as better than themselves will naturally respond by taking care of others' needs before their own.

The world says that if we don't look for ourselves, no one else will, but these verses would say otherwise. Imagine a world in which everyone lived like this. We wouldn't have to worry about looking out for ourselves knowing everyone else has our backs. Still, often this won't be the case and we will have to look out for the interests of those who don't look out for ours, but Philippians 2:5-8 remind us that Jesus did this for us. He treated our interests above His own by dying on the cross for us.

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.

## Team Discussion

1. What way do these verses tell us to put off the old man and put on the new man?
2. Verse 3 describes the mindset of a humble person and 4 gives his actions. How do you think a humble person thinks and acts? Why is important for a humble person to both think and act this way?
3. What would our team, school, home or community look like if everyone lived this way? Why should we treat others this way even if they don't treat us the same way?

## On the Court

The old man wants to:

- Put my desires to be in the game ahead of my teammates' desire to play.
- Always have the ball and take all the shots in order to make myself look great.

Instead, the new man will:

- Play to bless my teammates and not hog the ball.
- Make God's glory, not my own, the goal of my play.

## Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Make sure I get what I want before thinking of others.
- Put down other kids so that I will look and feel good.

Instead, the new man will:

- Remember that others might want what I want and give them the first chance to get it.
- Think of others and their needs as more important than me and my needs.

"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.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 5:17. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 2:3-4 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Sports can be a place where pride is a great temptation. Emphasize with your team the importance of giving God the glory and thinking about others before ourselves on the court. Look for ways to practice humility today.

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