

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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 (memory verse, Philippians 2:4, in **bold**)

In the Word

All season, we have been studying Ephesians 4-5 and looked at ways to put off the old man (our old sin nature) and put on the new man (who we are in Jesus). However, this idea is found not just in Ephesians, but all throughout the Bible. In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul challenges a group of Christians to put off the old man's attempts to get what we want and replace it with the new man's desire to treat others better than ourselves.

There are some big words in these verses. Verse 3 talks about “selfish ambition” and “conceit.” These are fancy words for thinking we are better than other people. Instead, Paul tells us to have lowliness of mind, which means thinking of others as more important than ourselves. In verse 4, Paul says that we should look out not just for our own interests (the things we want or need), but also the interests of others. While it doesn't say we can't look out for our own interests at all, we shouldn't care *only* about what we want or need. We also need to care about others and do our best to help them.

See how verse 3 talks about our thoughts, while verse 4 talks about our actions. These two things are connected. We aren't going to look out for the wants and needs of others if we go around thinking we are better than them. But once we see others as more important than ourselves, we will start to look out for their interests and treat them better. Both the thoughts and the actions are important. We must both think of *and* treat others as more important than ourselves.

In the Word (Continued)

At first, this might sound miserable. Who wants to be helping others all the time and taking care of their needs without first looking out for ourselves? The old man certainly wouldn't. But think about it: if each player on this team is looking out only for him or herself, how many people are looking out for you? Just yourself. But if everyone on our team treated one another as better than him or herself, you would have a whole team looking out for you. That sounds like a pretty good deal.

Still, sometimes that won't happen. Sometimes, you treat others as better than yourself, but they don't treat you the same way. Well, in the verses after this (vs. 5-11), Paul points out that this is what Jesus did. He treated us as better than Himself when He died on the cross for us. If He did that for us, we should do the same for others.

"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:

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

Instead, the new man will:

- Think of my teammates and make sure I help them to have a good time. I won't be a ball hog or try to play more than them.

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Always be first in line and get the best stuff.
- Make sure I get what I want before thinking of others.

Instead, the new man will:

- Remember that others might want the same thing as me and give them the first chance to get it.
- Think of others as more important than me.

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 5:17. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 2:4 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Have the players on your team pick a teammate they don't know too well. Challenge them to think of and treat that person as more important than themselves this week and find a way to look out for their interests.