

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 8

Diligent Workers

Diligent Workers

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 to live a life that God approves, we need to be diligent to study and apply God's Word.

Scripture Passage:

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

Coaches Guide

Earlier this season, we studied what a soldier, athlete, and farmer teach us about following God. In today's verse we see the example of a worker. The worker here is described as diligent, which means faithful to complete your duties exactly as you are told. If a worker is diligent, when they present their work they will be approved by the one who hired them and proud (not ashamed) of the job they have done. In 2 Timothy 2:15, we are told to follow in this example.

As believers, we all have a job to do: live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. One day, we will have to present this work to the Lord, and we will want it to be "approved [by] God." The end of 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us that we do this by "rightly dividing the word of truth." The phrase "rightly dividing" means to skillfully complete a task. So in order to live a life approved to God, we need to read, study, and obey His Word.

Just as a worker has a blueprint or directions to follow in order to complete their task, we have our instructions for the Christian life written in the Bible. In order to live a life approved to God, we need to know all about what it tells us about God, the world, and how we should live. That requires more than just a basic understanding. It takes diligent, continual study of God's Word. This can be done through personal time in the Word, youth group, church, Scripture memorization, Bible studies, and more. Then once we've studied the Word, we need to follow it. It's not simply enough to know what the Bible says, we need to obey it.

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. What does the word "diligent" mean? What can Christians learn from the example of a diligent worker?
2. How can a Christian live a life that is "approved unto God"? What does it mean to "rightly divide the word of truth"?
3. What are some ways we can be diligent to study the Bible (personal Bible reading, Bible study, youth group, etc.)? What do you do to study God's Word? What are some obstacles/challenges to studying God's Word?
4. What are some ways we can apply the things we learn in the Bible? How has studying the Bible impacted your life?

On the Court

- Take advantage of team devotion time as a great opportunity to study God's Word.
- As you play basketball, try apply the things you have learned during team devotion time this season
- As you learn your memory verse this week, talk about what it means and how you can obey it with your teammates during the week.

Off the Court

- Set aside time each day to study God's Word on your own.
- Start or join a group Bible study with your friends.
- Get involved in a youth group if you aren't already.
- Whenever you study the Bible, pay close attention to what it tells you to do, and make a plan for how you can apply it to your life.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 2:13, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 2 Timothy 2:15 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize to the kids the importance of having a personal devotion time to study the Word of God each day. Consider giving your team some Scriptures to study during the week and asking them about it next week.