

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

Was there a game or moment this season you were really proud of? Maybe it was the time you made your first basket, or a game when you worked really hard to win. It feels good to be proud of the work we do. In today's verse, Paul talks about living the Christian life in a way that God will be pleased with and we can be proud of.

There are a few big words in today's verse. 2 Timothy 2:15 talks about a diligent worker. Someone who is diligent works hard to make sure that their work is the best it can possibly be and that they follow all the directions. They don't just try to get the job finished as quickly as they can. They make sure the job is done right. When it's done, they show their work to the person who hired them, and that person decides if the work is good or not. If the work is good, it will be approved (accepted), and the worker will be proud, not ashamed (embarrassed), of the work they did. For example, think of construction workers who carefully follow the blueprint (plans) to build a house. When they are finished, if they did a good job, someone will like the house and buy it, and the workers will be proud of what they have done.

As Christians, we should be diligent workers. God has given us a job to do: live a life that is pleasing to Him. One day we will all have to present our lives to the Lord, and He will either call it approved or unapproved. So how do we live lives that God will approve and that we can be proud and not ashamed of? The end of the verse is the key. It tells us to rightly divide

In the Word (Continued)

the word of truth. “The word of truth” is another name for the Bible, and “rightly dividing” means to use it the correct way. In other words, the key to living a life that God will approve is to study and obey God’s Word.

Like a construction worker carefully studying a blueprint or a baker following a recipe, Christians get our directions for life from the Bible, so to know how God wants us to live, we should carefully study it to see what it says. That’s more than just hearing it at church on Sundays. For you, it could mean reading the Bible each day with your family, memorizing Bible verses, and maybe even reading it on your own. But it’s not enough just to know what it says. Once we’ve studied it, we should be diligent to do the things it tells us. If we live our lives the way God has told us to in His Word, our work will be approved by God.

“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

- When you are at basketball, pay careful attention to what you are learning in devotion time. This is a great chance to study God’s Word.
- As you play basketball, try to do the things you have learned from the Bible during devotion time this year.
- As you learn your memory verse this week, talk about what it means and how you can obey it with your family.

Off the Court

- If your family doesn’t study the Bible together, you could ask your parents to read the Bible to you every day.
- Just because basketball season is almost over doesn’t mean we should stop learning Bible verses. Try to memorize one each week.
- Whenever you read the Bible, pay close attention to what it tells you to do, and make a plan for how you can obey what it says.

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, 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. Ask the kids if they are memorizing verses or reading the Bible with their families at home. If not, encourage them to ask their family about doing so.