

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

10-18's

Sports Devos

Week 8

Overcome Evil with Good

Overcome Evil with Good

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 show the players the proper response to those who do wrong to them.

Scripture Passage:

"Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:17-21

Coaches Guide

Today's study will look at how we should respond to those who do us wrong. In reading this passage, one thing immediately becomes clear: there is no reason for believers to respond to evil with more evil. Our natural response as humans is to get revenge when someone wrongs us, but Paul counsels us to respond with good. That doesn't mean that we give up on justice. Rather, instead of getting justice for (avenging, vs. 19) ourselves, we entrust that to the Lord and trust Him to take care of it.

Verse 18 tells us to make sure that we are not the cause of any hate or division between ourselves and others. There will be some who hate you for no fault of your own, and that's okay. If someone hates you for being a Christian or mistreats you because they don't like you, those are acceptable reasons to be hated. But Paul wants us to be sure that if someone is evil toward us, the problem is with them, not with us. If we are teasing, wronging, or purposefully making ourselves unlikable to others, mistreatment is our own fault. We must not be guilty of anything that would antagonizing others or start or contribute to conflict.

Notice that Paul does not simply tell us to ignore evil done to us. He tells us to respond to it with good. He gives the example of giving food or drink to an enemy who is hungry or thirsty. Good is not only the proper response to those who do evil to us. It is the cure for that very evil. When others show us unkindness, we are to respond with love. So encourage the person who is always demeaning to you. Pray for those who hate your faith. Look for ways to show kindness to those who mistreat you. This is how you overcome evil with good.

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. How do we naturally want to respond when others wrong us? How does the Bible tell us to respond?
2. By not repaying evil for evil, are we giving up on justice, or is something else going on?
3. How can we make sure we are living at peace with others as best as we can? Are there right and wrong reasons to be hated?
4. Do we respond to evil simply by ignoring it, or is there something more? How can good overcome evil?

On the Court

- There may be opponents, refs, coaches, or even teammates that you don't get along with. Show them kindness this week by encouraging them, praying for them, or whatever else you think might bless them.
- The other team may be your opponents, but they are not your enemies. Seek peace during your game. Do not trash talk or do anything to make them angry at you or your team.

Off the Court

- Think of someone in your life who is regularly unkind to you (a sibling, neighborhood kid, school bully, etc.). Think of how you can respond to their evil with good. Offer friendship, prayers, and any other sort of blessing you can think of.
- Make sure that you are doing everything you can to live at peace with others. Do nothing to start or worsen conflict with someone else.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 12:15. Anyone who can recite it to you will get a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. As this is the final week, there is no memory verse this week. However, it would be a good idea to encourage the players to learn verse 21.
3. Use this final week to reflect on the things your team has learned this season. Have players share what they have learned about the Lord this year. Consider sharing a story of what the Lord is doing in your heart.