

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4-9'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.

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 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

## In the Word

All season, we have looked at what it means to live like a Christian. Have some of your players share what they have learned this year about Christian living. While most of our studies have looked at how we should speak, think, and act toward God and others, today we will see how we should respond to others when they do wrong to us.

The Bible is clear when it comes to how we should act when others are unkind to us: we do not respond to evil with evil. Our natural reaction is to fight back. If someone hits you, you hit them back. If your sister takes one of your chicken nuggets without asking, you take her French fries. Yet the Bible tells us that this is not right. The response to evil is never more evil. We are to respond to evil by doing right.

Verse 18 tells us that we should be at peace with others as much as depends on us. Sometimes, people will dislike and be unkind to us even though we have done nothing wrong, and that's fine. However, the Bible tells us that we must always be sure we are not the cause of any division or problems with others. If someone is going to dislike you, make sure you don't give them a good reason for doing so.

These verses also tell us that we don't need to avenge ourselves ("avenge" means get even) because Jesus will avenge us. Even when others do wrong to us, we can be confident that Jesus will make things right. He might bless us here on earth, but even if He doesn't, we know that He will take care of us in heaven.

## In the Word (Continued)

Notice that these verses do not say, “do not be overcome by evil, just ignore it.” No, we are told to respond to evil by doing good. As an example, Paul says that if someone unkind to us is hungry or thirsty, give him food and drink. We don’t defeat evil by opposing it with more evil or ignoring it. We defeat (overcome) evil with good.

In this world, people will dislike and be unkind to you. While we can and should do as much as we can to minimize such people and live in peace with others, we can’t avoid such people completely. Paul tells us that when we encounter them, we must not try to get revenge or payback. We are not even supposed to merely ignore them. We are to seek how we can bless, help, and be kind to them. We are to overcome evil with good.

“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

- 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.

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, 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.