

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

10-18 year olds

Week 8

Prayer

Prayer

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 players what prayer is and challenge them to use this awesome gift.

Scripture Passage:

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. **Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**"

James 5:13-16, NIV (Memory Verse, James 5:16, in bold)

Coaches Guide

If you had access to a powerful world leader such as the President of the United States, you would probably make use of that often. Through prayer, believers have access to someone even more powerful, the God of the Universe, yet so often we neglect the wonderful gift that is prayer.

In James 5:13-15, James lists some of the incredible things that prayer can do. Through prayer, God helps people who are in trouble, heals the sick, and forgives sins. The Bible is full of miracles God did through prayer. In verse 17-18, James talks about Elijah, who prayed for no rain and God sent a drought for three and a half years. Then he prayed again and God sent rain. Yet despite prayer's power, many of us don't use it.

There are several reasons people might not pray. Some don't believe that prayer works. Others are worried they don't know how. Still some people think they are too busy. Whatever the reason, when we neglect prayer, we are ignoring a crucial part of the Christian life. James 5:16 says that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. In other words, when we pray, God answers. He might not answer when we want or way we want Him to, but the answer will always come in God's perfect timing and plan. He might not bring you out of your difficult situation, but maybe He will work in your situation to make you more like Him.

Your prayers don't have to be complicated. All we have to do is talk to God and tell Him what we need. When we do that, we invite God to do mighty works in our lives.

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 often do you pray? Do you feel like you pray enough?
2. What kind of things can prayer do according to James 5:13-15? Can you think of any examples from the Bible or your own life of God answering prayer?
3. Why do you think a lot of people don't pray very much? Are those good reasons not to pray?
4. Does God always answer our prayers the way we ask as soon as we pray?
5. How do you pray?

On the Court

- Pray for your teammates who couldn't make it today and ask God to take care of them if they are sick.
- Pray for anyone who gets injured in today's game.
- Pray that everything you say and do on the court would be pleasing to Jesus today.
- During the week, remember to pray for your coaches and teammates. Ask them for prayer requests.

Off the Court

- If you have a sick friend or family member, you can pray and ask God to heal them.
- Are you going through a tough situation? Pray and ask God for wisdom and help.
- Pray for God to make you more like Jesus.
- Set a prayer time when you can talk to God every day. This should help you to remember to pray.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, James 5:8. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 5:16 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Take some extra time for prayer requests today. It's okay if your devotion time is a little shorter and you spend that extra time on prayer.