

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 8

Your Heavenly Reward

Your Heavenly Reward

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 present the Gospel and show the players how they can receive God's reward of eternal life.

Scripture Passage:

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23-24

In the Word

Have you ever received a reward for something you did? Maybe you helped a neighbor shovel their driveway and got paid, or you got a good grade on a test and your parents bought you ice cream. When a person does something good, they deserve a reward for what they've done.

Last week, we learned that in everything we do, our goal should be to please the Lord. When we do that, Colossians 3:24 tells us that the Lord will reward us, and that reward is the greatest reward anyone has ever received: eternal life with Him in heaven. This is great news, especially when you realize that we don't deserve this reward.

You see, God created us to glorify Him and live with Him forever. He taught us how to live a life that pleases Him, which includes doing the things we've been learning about this year. The problem is that many times, we think, say, and do things that don't please the Lord. That's called sin, and those who sin do not deserve the reward of eternal life with God. In fact, the Bible tells us that because of our sin, we deserve the exact opposite: separation from God forever. But God loves us so much that He didn't want to be separated from us forever, so He did something to fix the problem of sin. He sent His Son, Jesus.

Jesus was born as a man, and although He was a human just like the rest of us, He never sinned once. He only did the things that please God. He lived a perfect life, and is the only man ever who deserved eternal life. But people were jealous of Him, and so they killed Him like a criminal on

In the Word (Continued)

the cross. The only man never to sin received the punishment for sin that we deserved. But then, He rose from the dead on the third day, defeating death once and for all, so that everyone who believes in Him can have their sins forgiven and be with Him forever.

So how do you have your sins forgiven and receive God's reward of eternal life? All you have to do is ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. You can do that by admitting to Him that you are a sinner, believing that He died and rose again for you, asking Him to forgive your sins, and making Him King of your life. If you've never asked Jesus to be your Savior before, you can do it today! When you do that, you become part of the family of God and are ready to begin your life of following the Lord, and you can be sure that you will spend eternity with Him in heaven.

"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

- The message of what Jesus has done for us and how we can be saved is more important than anything that can happen on the basketball court. If you take away one thing from this season, let it be this message.
- Jesus wants to be King of your whole life, including on the basketball court. Make honoring Him with the way you act your number one goal.

Off the Court

- The most important choice any person can make is to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If you have never done that before, do it today!
- If Jesus truly is your Lord, you will live the way He wants you to live by doing the things His Word says—the things we've talked about this season.
- Share the good news of what Jesus has done for us with any unbelieving friends or family members that you have.

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, Colossians 3:23, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Since this is the final week, there is no new memory verse.
3. The goal of today is to give a clear Gospel message and invite anyone who wants to respond to receive Jesus. Let Chris know if anyone on your team asks Jesus to be their Savior.
4. Though our season ends today, these relationships don't. Whenever you see your players, encourage them in their walks with the Lord.