

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BASKETBALL DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 9

Doers of the Word

Doers of the Word

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 encourage the players to put into practice the things they have been learning this season and be doers of the Word of God.

Scripture Passage:

"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

James 1:21-25

In the Word

This season, we have looked many different ways we can obey God by putting off the old man and putting on the new man. We looked at the ways we use our words, respond to anger, treat others, and a number of other things. Last week, we saw how putting off the old man and putting on the new is only possible if we believe in Jesus and He makes us new creations. I hope you've all learned a lot about God this season, but today we are going to see that it's important not just to learn about these things, but to actually do them.

In James 1:21-25, James tells us to put off the old man ("lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness") and instead to receive the Word of God. Then he says that we must be doers of God's Word, not just hearers. A person who is only a hearer may hear someone teach the Bible, but he doesn't do what it says. A doer not only listens to the Word, but actually obeys what the Bible says. James explains that being a hearer and not a doer is like looking at a mirror and then forgetting what we look like. If we read the Bible but don't do what it says, we've missed the point. On the other hand, if we hear *and do* what the Bible says, we will be blessed.

Everyone on this team has been a hearer of the Word, and that's great. The problem is not with being a hearer, but with being a hearer only and not a doer. We all have learned some of the ways we can put off the old man and put on the new man. But if we don't actually live out the things that we've talked about this season, we haven't done what we need

In the Word (Continued)

to do. Now that we know how to put off the old man and put on the new, we need to live like the new man.

Being a doer doesn't mean just doing the things that are easy for you. As we have gone through our devotions, I'm sure some of the things we talked about were things you are already doing. But think about the parts of putting off the old man and putting on the new man that are hard for you. Maybe you struggle with lying, anger, pride, or wasting time. The Christian life is about finding these areas of sin in our lives and allowing God to change us so that we put away that sin and live like the new man instead. Now that the season is over, you have a choice to make. You can either be a hearer only and forget everything we've talked about this year, or you can be a doer and live like the new man.

"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 old man wants to:

- Play with the same selfishness, pride, anger, evil speaking, or other parts of the old man that I played with at the beginning of the season.

Instead, the new man will:

- Work on the parts of the new man I learned about this year.
- Continue to look for new ways to obey God's Word when I play basketball.

Off the Court

The old man wants to:

- Ignore everything I've learned in devotions this season and keep living like the old man.
- Be a doer of the Word only when it is easy.

Instead, the new man will:

- Try to work on the areas of the old man that are hard for me and be a doer of the Word.
- Continue to look for ways to put off the old man and put on the new man.

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 Corinthians 5:17. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it. There is no new verse this week as this is the final week of the season.
2. Have the players try to think of one lesson from this year that they feel they need to work on. Encourage them to put that lesson into practice during the game today and in their everyday lives.
3. Since this is the last opportunity you will get to be with your team, give your players one more opportunity to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.