

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 1

Follow Me

Follow Me

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 study will teach the kids what a disciple is and invite them to become disciples of Jesus.

Scripture Passage:

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’”

Matthew 16:24

Coaches Guide

When most people think of the word “disciple,” they might picture Peter, John, and the other men who followed Jesus during His time on earth. But the Bible says that everyone who trusts in Jesus as their Lord and Savior and gives Him their lives is His disciple. The word disciple means “learner,” and Jesus invites all of us to be His disciples.

So what does it take to be a disciple of Jesus? In Matthew 16:24, He says that to come after Him, we need to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. This means that your life is no longer about you and what you want. Instead, the most important thing is living for Christ, no matter the cost. You might have to give up your dreams, your comfort, your friends, or more in order to follow and obey Jesus. In fact, taking up your cross in that day meant going to your death. Being a disciple requires us to give up our entire lives. That's a huge commitment!

Christ's invitation to discipleship leaves each of us with a decision to make: will I live my own way, or will I follow Jesus? For those who have made the choice to be Christ's disciple, we will spend this season learning more about how to follow Jesus. If you have not yet made this decision, we invite you listen as we study what it means to be a disciple this year, and hopefully you will choose to follow Jesus as well.

Being a disciple means living to please Jesus in every area of our lives. This season, we will learn what it means to be a disciple at soccer, at school, at home, with friends, and wherever else we go.

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 Field" gives some in-game situations where today's lesson can be applied, while "Off the Field" 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. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?
2. According to our memory verse, what must you do to be a disciple? What does it mean for someone to "deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow" Jesus?
3. What are some things you might have to give up in order to be a disciple of Jesus? Have you ever had to give something up for Jesus?
4. Does following Jesus sound easy? What are some challenges that might make it difficult for you to be a disciple?
5. Does anyone want to trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior today?

On the Field

- A disciple of Jesus puts following Him above everything. When you play sports, that means that obeying Jesus is more important than winning the game.
- When your patience gets tested in the game and you want to respond in anger or unkindness, remember that you are a disciple and that you should act like one.
- A disciple is a learner. This season, pay attention during team devotion time to learn all that you can about the Lord.

Off the Field

- In order to be a learner, spend time in prayer and in God's Word so that you can get to know Jesus better.
- When what God wants you to do is different from what you want to do, choose to follow Jesus and obey His Word.
- Being a disciple means doing what's right and obeying Jesus, even if everyone around you is doing what's wrong.
- You will make mistakes, but disciples try to become more like Jesus each day.

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Matthew 16:24 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
2. As this is the first week, take some time to make sure everyone knows each other's names.
3. We will explain the Gospel in more detail later this season, but if any players want to become disciples of Christ and ask Him to be their Lord and Savior today, give them the opportunity to do so.