

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

When you hear the word “disciple,” what do you think of? Maybe you picture the men who lived long ago and followed Jesus around during His life on earth, like Peter, James, and John. While these men are certainly Jesus’ most famous disciples, they are not the only ones. In fact, in Matthew 16:24, Jesus invites all of us to become His disciples. The word “disciple” means learner, and so a disciple of Christ is someone who gives their life to learn from Him, be like Him, and follow His commands.

However, being a disciple is not easy. Jesus said that if you want to come after Him, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him. That means that your life is no longer all about you and what you want, but what God wants, and that you’re willing to do whatever it takes, even if it’s difficult, to follow Him. When you are Christ’s disciple, no person or thing can be more important to you than Jesus. You might have to give something up, and sometimes you won’t be able to do the things you want to do if they are displeasing to the Lord. You may even have to lose friends if they tempt you to do things you know are wrong. Jesus wants your whole life. That’s a big commitment!

This invitation to follow Jesus leaves all of us with a choice to make. Will you live life your own way and do the things you want to do, even if those things are wrong? Or will you become a disciple of Jesus and give your life to Him? If you choose to follow Jesus, you will face many difficult decisions and might have to make sacrifices in order to obey Him. But as

In the Word (Continued)

we will see next week and learn throughout the season, Jesus knows what's best for us, and while we have to give up the temporary pleasures of sin, the rewards of following Him will always be worth it.

Some of you already know Jesus and have made the choice to be His disciple. For you, we will spend this season learning more about Christ and what it means to follow Him. We will see what it looks like to be a disciple at home, in school, with your friends, and even here at soccer. But if you have never asked Jesus to be your Savior, we invite you to listen and learn more about Him this year, and we hope that soon you will make the decision to be His disciple too. If you would like to do that today, we would love to pray with you, and then you can begin your journey as His disciple. It will be the best decision you ever make!

"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.

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.

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. 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.