

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 1

Living Sacrifices

Living Sacrifices

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 show that, if we want to live lives that please the Lord, we must first offer our lives to Him as living sacrifices.

Scripture Passage:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Coaches Guide

For our devotions this year, we will be studying through Romans 12. After spending the first 11 chapters of Romans explaining the Gospel, or what Jesus has done for us, in Romans 12, Paul (the author) examines what it looks like to follow Jesus practically, in our everyday lives.

In Romans 12:1, Paul calls us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices. In the Old Testament, the Jewish people made animal sacrifices to pay for their sins. But thanks to Jesus, we don’t need to offer animals anymore. Instead, we present ourselves to God as living sacrifices, giving Him our lives not by dying, but by living for Him. Being a living sacrifice means giving up our own dreams, and desires and instead devoting our lives completely to God, seeking to live a life that’s holy and pleasing to Him.

Giving your life to Jesus is a big commitment. Paul says that we should make this commitment “in view of God’s mercy,” which refers to the Gospel. Offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices is our proper response to all Jesus has done for us. And what exactly has He done? The Bible says that we all have sinned and our sin separates us from God, but that Jesus came and died on the cross, taking the punishment for sin that we deserved, and rose again from the dead. Now He offers eternal life if you ask Him to forgive your sins and be your Lord and Savior.

For any players who don’t know Jesus, today we want to give them the chance to give their lives to Him. And for all our players, we will be learning this year how to live for Jesus as living sacrifices.

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 do you think the phrase "living sacrifice" in Romans 12:1 means?
2. Why should we make such a big commitment? What has God done to deserve our whole lives?
3. What does being a living sacrifice look like on the soccer field? How about at school? At home? Other places?
4. We can't become living sacrifices unless we are first believers in Jesus Christ. Present the Gospel message to your team. Share of Christ's death and resurrection and ask if anyone would like to become a follower of Jesus today.

On the Field

- Being a living sacrifice means that your number one goal should be honoring the Lord in everything you do. Pleasing Him is more important than scoring goals or winning games. Praise the Lord whether you win or lose today.
- On the soccer field, you can honor the Lord and be living sacrifices by listening to your coach and respecting your teammates, opponents, and referees.

Off the Field

- As Christians, we live for the Lord not just at church, but everywhere we go. Think of the places you go at least once per week (home, school, activities, etc.) How you can live for Jesus in these places?
- God wants to see all people become living sacrifices. Think of someone you know who doesn't know Jesus and make a plan to share about Jesus and how you came to know Him with them.

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Romans 12:1 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
2. The big emphasis this week is on the Gospel presentation. Give the players an opportunity to make a decision for Christ today, as in order to live for Jesus, they must first know Him as Savior.
3. Use this first week to learn the names of every player on your team and encourage the players to learn one another's names.