

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 show that, if we want to live lives that please the Lord, we must first offer our lives to the Lord 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)

In the Word

In Romans 12, Paul lays out for us what the Christian life looks like. This year, we will be going through this chapter trying to see how we can live lives that serve and please the Lord based on what Scripture says. The first thing Paul says, which is what we will look at today, is that if we want to follow the Lord, we have to become living sacrifices.

Now you might be thinking, “What is a living sacrifice?” Back in Old Testament times, before Jesus came into the world, people had to offer animals up in the temple to pay for their sins. The animal was called a sacrifice because the animal had to die to pay for the people’s sins. Now that we have Jesus, we don’t need animal sacrifices anymore, but we are supposed to be living sacrifices. We don’t die for our sins, but instead of offering animals up, we offer God our whole lives. Being a living sacrifice means that we live to please God, not ourselves. It means giving your whole life to the Lord.

That’s a big commitment! What would make us commit our whole lives to the Lord? Our verse says that we do this in view of God’s mercies. You see, we have all sinned and done something wrong, and the Bible says that the punishment for sin is death—separation from God forever! God didn’t have to do anything to stop this, but because He loves us, He chose to save us by sending Jesus to die on the cross to forgive us of our sins. Now, if we ask God for forgiveness and trust that He died for us and rose again, we will be saved and live with Him forever.

In the Word (Continued)

As we look this year at what it means to live the Christian life, we obviously first have to be believers who have given our lives to the Lord. Being a living sacrifice is our response to what Jesus did for us. He died for us, so now we live for Him. If any of you have never given your life to the Lord, now is a great opportunity to take your first step in being a living sacrifice. You can't live the Christian life without first being a believer, so if you have never done it before, today is your chance to make Jesus your Lord and Savior. All you have to do is admit they you have sinned, ask Jesus for forgiveness, and declare that He is your Lord (King) and Savior. And whether you just became a Christian today or have known Jesus for a long time, it is important for all of us to give our lives as living sacrifices every day.

"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

- 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.

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 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.