

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 1

The Fruit of the Spirit

The Fruit of the Spirit

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 show the kids that the fruit of the Spirit is the sign of a healthy Christian life and present the Gospel to the players.

Scripture Passage:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23

Coaches Guide

This year, we will be looking at the fruit of the Spirit. However, before we look at each fruit individually, we have to answer two questions: why is it called the fruit of the Spirit, and how do we get this fruit? That will be our focus today.

In Galatians 5, Paul compares the life of the person living by the Spirit of God to the person living according to his flesh. In verses 16-21, he describes what a person who walks by the flesh looks like. In contrast, the Spirit-filled Christian will show the characteristics listed in the fruit of the Spirit. Paul uses the analogy of fruit because, just as a healthy tree will naturally produce fruit, so the fruit of the Spirit is the sign of a healthy Christian. The healthier a tree is, the more fruit it will produce. The same way, the more a person walks with Christ, the more he or she will see the fruit of the Spirit in his or her life.

Almost everybody wants the fruit of the Spirit. But in order to have the fruit of the Spirit, you must first have Jesus as your Lord and Savior. To do this, first you must admit that you are a sinner and have broken God's law. Second, you need to believe that Jesus lived a perfect life but died a criminal's death in order to pay for our sins, and then rose again from the dead on the third day, defeating death. Finally, you must turn away from your sins and ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Lord and Savior. When you do that, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit comes into your life, and the fruit of the Spirit will prove that the Spirit is in you.

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. Why do you think Paul uses the metaphor of fruit to describe these Christian virtues?
2. Do all Christians equally show the fruit of the Spirit? How does the fruit/tree metaphor help us understand that?
3. Are the fruit of the Spirit the kind of characteristics you would want people to use to describe you? Why or why not?
4. What do we need to do in order to have the fruit of the Spirit?

On the Field

- We can know the Holy Spirit is in us if we display the fruit of the Spirit on the soccer field. Think of ways we might see the fruit of the Spirit on the field, such as:
- If we have *love*, we will treat others as more important than ourselves.
- If we have *kindness*, we will use words that encourage others.
- If we have *self-control*, we won't push other players or yell at others when we are angry.

Off the Field

- Think of ways we can know the Spirit is in us when we are at home, school, or with our friends. For example, we know we have *joy* if we can praise God even when things are bad. If we have *patience*, we will wait our turn for things at school.
- The good news of what Jesus has done for us and how we can be filled with the Spirit (the Gospel) is the most important message in the world. Think of someone you know who is not a Christian and share the Gospel with them.

The Game Plan

1. Present the Gospel and give an opportunity this week for the children to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Make sure the players know that faith in Jesus is far more important than anything they will ever do on a soccer field.
2. Learn and memorize Galatians 5:22-23 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize getting to know one another this week. Encourage the players to learn one another's names.