

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

How many of you like fruit? (Pause for response.) Do you know where fruit comes from? (Pause again for answers.) Fruit comes from healthy trees and vines. A tree doesn't have to think about growing fruit or try really hard to grow fruit. If the tree is planted in good soil and gets plenty of sunlight and water, the fruit will naturally grow from it. In fact, you could say that fruit is the sign of a healthy tree.

Now I'm sure many of you have heard of the fruit of the Spirit, which Paul wrote about in Galatians 5:22-23. But maybe you don't know why we call it the fruit of the Spirit. Why didn't Paul tell us to have the eggs of the Spirit, or the donuts of the Spirit, or maybe the soccer balls of the Spirit? Paul calls these traits the fruit of the Spirit because, just as fruit is the sign of a healthy tree, the fruit of the Spirit is the sign of a healthy Christian. Just like a tree with plenty of water and sunlight will naturally produce fruit, a person filled with the Holy Spirit will naturally show love, joy, peace, patience (longsuffering), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

I'm sure all of us want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. All of us want to experience the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. But how can we do that? How do we receive the Holy Spirit? The Bible teaches us that anyone who

In the Word (Continued)

believes in Jesus Christ as their Savior has the Holy Spirit. But then how do we do that? First, we must confess to God that we have sinned. We have all lied, cheated, stolen things, or been unkind to others, and the Bible says that the punishment for these sins is death. Then, we need to trust what Jesus has done for us. Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, came down to earth and lived a perfect life, but He died on a cross to pay the punishment from our sins. But He didn't stay dead – He rose again on the third day, beating death! All we have to do is turn away from our sin, believe that Jesus died and rose again for us, and ask Him for forgiveness. When we do this, we invite Him to be both our Savior and Lord (Master). Everyone who believes this message receives the Holy Spirit and will have the fruit of the Spirit.

“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

- 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.

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. 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.