

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 1

The New Man

The New Man

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 how we can put off the sins of our old nature ("old man") and put on the "new man" by doing what honors the Lord.

Scripture Passage:

"That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**"

Ephesians 4:22-24 (memory verse, Ephesians 4:24, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

This season, we'll be looking at the theme found in Scripture of putting off the old man and putting on the new man. The "old man" is a term Paul uses for the way we lived before we were saved, when we were trapped in sin and sought to please ourselves. The "new man" refers to our new nature as Christians, which seeks to honor the Lord

Paul encourages us in Ephesians 4:22-24 to get rid of the old man and put on the new man. As believers, we are called to live free from sin and do the things that please God. The problem is, our old sin nature doesn't go away once we get saved. Even as Christians, we still face temptation. That's why we need to make the choice to turn away from our sin and instead do things that are good and honoring to Jesus.

Putting off the old man and putting on the new are both necessary. We can't do one without the other. If we try really hard not to sin, but don't seek to do what pleases the Lord, we just end up replacing our old sins with new ones. Or if we try to do what's right without stopping our old, sinful ways, then we are living in compromise. Rather, we should aim to remove areas of sin in our lives and instead try to please God in all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Before we were saved, we were slaves to sin and unable to put off the old man or put on the new man. But as believers, Jesus gives us His Holy Spirit, and by His power we are able to be set free from our old sins and live for Christ. This season, we'll learn specific ways to do that.

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 "old man" and "new man" refer to in our verses?
2. Do Christians still struggle with sin? Do we always do what pleases the Lord? Why do you think that is?
3. Is it possible to put off the old man, but not put on the new man? Or put on the new man without putting off the old? What would happen if you tried doing one without the other? Why are both necessary?
4. How have you changed since you became a believer? Are there sins you used to struggle with that you don't do anymore? Are there good things you didn't use to do that you do now? Are there areas where you would still like to improve?

On the Field

The old man wants to:

- Play to win at all costs
- Trash talk the other team
- Be prideful in victory and a bad sport in defeat

Instead, the new man will:

- Play to honor God
- Encourage opponents and teammates
- Rejoice in the Lord, no matter the game's outcome.

Off the Field

The old man wants to:

- Disobey and disrespect those in authority over us
- Try to get the things we want at any cost

Instead, the new man will:

- Find ways to bless our parents and teachers, even without them asking
- Think of others before ourselves and do what's best for them

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:24 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. Since only believers can be set free from sin and live for the Lord, give the players on your team an opportunity to give their lives to Christ today (note that we will have a more full Gospel presentation later this season).