

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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**)

In the Word

Think about what you were like three years ago. What are some ways you are different today? In what ways are you similar? As you get older, you change in many ways. You get taller, learn new things, make new friends. Maybe you dress or talk differently than you did when you were younger. We all go through change.

In Ephesians 4:22-24, the Bible tells us that Christians experience another kind of change. In fact, according to Paul, the writer of Ephesians, when we trust in Jesus, we become a completely different person. The person we used to be is known as the "old man," and who we are after we get saved Paul calls the "new man."

Think about what you were like before you decided to follow Jesus. Maybe you were unkind to your siblings, or disobedient to your parents, or disrespectful to your teacher. That was your old man. The old man is ruled by sin and lives to please itself. Without Jesus, you are unable to live in a way that honors God. But when Jesus enters your life, He makes you a new creation and gives you the power to live for Him. Maybe you now find it easier to obey and to be kind to others. That new person you become is what Paul means by the new man.

Unfortunately, when we ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, that doesn't mean we stop sinning completely. We still lie, say unkind words, and do other things that God tells us not to do. That's because the old man is still a part of us. It won't be gone until we get to heaven. As long as we

In the Word (Continued)

are on earth, there is a battle between our old desires to live for ourselves and do the sinful things we want, and our new desires to follow and obey God. Every day, we have a choice to make: will I live like the old man, or will I reject sin and put on the new man?

Notice that putting off the old man and putting on the new man has two parts. First, we need to get rid of the old man—the sinful things we are tempted to do. But it's not enough just to try really hard not to do bad things. We need to replace those sins with things that please the Lord, which is putting on the new man. This season, we'll be looking at verses that show us different examples of sins to remove from our lives, and godly things to replace them with. Let's see how many different ways we can put off the old man and put on the new man this year.

"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

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

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 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).