

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 1

Think About Such Things

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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 teach the kids to think about the things listed in Philippians 4:8, which will then produce godly behavior.

Scripture Passage:

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

Coaches Guide

As a coach, it is important to help your team get into the right mindset and keep their head in the game. We know that if players are distracted and thinking about other things, they won't play as well as when they are focused on the game. This is because our thoughts have a major effect on our actions. In Philippians 4:8, we find that same concept to be true in our lives as believers.

Paul knew that what we think about affects our actions. That's why in our memory verse, he lists a series of things that we should think about as believers. When our thoughts are on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy, our words and actions will follow. On the other hand, when we think about sinful things, that too will manifest itself in the way we live.

Often our thoughts are a product of the environment we place ourselves in. If we surround ourselves with ungodly friends, consume sinful media, and use our time on worldly or selfish things, it will produce in our lives thoughts and actions that do not please God. However, when we fill our lives with Scripture, godly friends, and other good influences, we will probably live lives that please the Lord.

This season, we are going to go through each of the things listed in Philippians 4:8 and what they look like in our lives. As we go through the list, we will look at how we can fill our hearts and minds with such things so that godly character can follow.

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. In sports, your coach will try to make sure you are in the right mindset. Why do you think that is? Why is what you are thinking about so important?
2. Why do you think Paul tells us to think about the things in Philippians 4:8? How would thinking about these things affect the way we live?
3. What are some things we can do to help ourselves think about the things in Philippians 4:8?
4. How does our memory verse impact the people we hang out with, the things we watch, read, and listen to, and the way we spend our time?

On the Field

- When you talk with your teammates, make sure that things you talk about are true, pure, right, and all the other things found in our verse.
- When you are tempted to think bad thoughts about the other team, the referee, or even your teammates, put your thoughts through the Philippians 4:8 test. When you are thinking rightly in these situations, you will be better prepared to respond in a godly way.

Off the Field

- The best thing you can fill your life with is God's Word. Take some time every day to read the Bible and pray.
- Who do you spend time with? Choose friends who live in a way that matches Philippians 4:8. At the same time, make sure that you are filling their lives up with good things.
- Make sure the shows you watch, the books you read, and the games you play are ones that are pleasing to the Lord.

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Philippians 4:8 (NIV) 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. Don't worry too much about the kids understanding what every word in the memory verse means. We will spend all season going over each of them. Instead, focus on the big picture: filling your life with good things vs. bad things.