

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 1

Think About Such Things

Think About Such Things

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 teach the kids to fill their lives with 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)

In the Word

Imagine at the end of the game, you have two water bottles you can choose to drink out of. The first was filled with cold water, clean and fresh. The other is full of mud and grass. Which one would you drink out of? Why? The first one of course. It is full of good things, so you know good things will come out. The second cup is full of yucky things, and so only gross things will come out. The same way, when we fill our lives with good things, good will come out of us, but when we are full of bad things, our words and actions will be bad.

In Philippians 4:8, Paul gives us a list of the kind of things we should fill our lives with as Christians. He tells us to think about things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. All of the things on this list are things that Scripture says please and honor God. Paul knew that when we think about and fill our lives with things that are good, good words and actions will come out. On the other hand, when our lives are full of things that are bad or ungodly, we will live in a way that displeases the Lord.

So how do we fill our lives with these good things? Think about the people and things you spend your time on. Do you hang out with friends who are talking about unkind or untrue things? Do you watch TV shows that don't please the Lord? Do you spend hours playing video games and no time praying or reading the Bible? If we surround ourselves with people and things like that, what do you think our words and actions will

In the Word (Continued)

be like? Probably not what the Lord wants. But if we are around people who are encouraging us to follow the Lord and spending time in His Word and prayer, what do you think your life will look like? You will be living a life that is pleasing to the Lord.

This season, we will be going through the list that Paul gives us in Philippians 4:8 and see what each of them mean and what they look like in our lives. As we study, let's be thinking about way we can fill our lives with the things that are good so that our words and actions can be pleasing to the Lord. Ask yourself, "Are the things I think about, the people I spend time with, and the things I watch, play, read, and listen to things that are on the Philippians 4:8 list?" Let's make it our goal to make our lives look like our memory verse.

"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

- Pay attention in team devotion time and when your coach is talking to you. It's a great opportunity to be filled with godly wisdom.
- 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, ask yourself, "Is this something that the Lord would want me to think?"

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 with your family.
- 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.

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 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.