

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 1

Trust in the Lord

Trust in the Lord

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 rely on the wisdom from God's Word over our own wisdom.

Scripture Passage:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Coaches Guide

This season, we will be learning about God's wisdom in the book of Proverbs. Wisdom is knowing how to make good decisions and do what's right in different situations. Our world today teaches that the best thing to do is follow your heart, trust yourself, and do what you think is best. You can find this advice in most movies, but the Bible warns us that this is a dangerous message. Today's memory verse tells us that as Christians, we should not rely on our own wisdom, but instead trust in God.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says not to "lean on your own understanding," or rely on your own wisdom to know what to do. Instead, we need to trust in the Lord with all our heart and acknowledge Him in all our ways. That means that in every situation, we should seek God's wisdom, trust that what He says is best, and then do it. And where do we find God's wisdom and direction? In His Word, the Bible. When we seek God's wisdom, He promises to direct our path, or show us what to do.

You might wonder, "Why do I have to listen to God? Why does He get to tell me how to live? Don't I know what's best for me?" The Bible teaches us that God is our Creator. He designed us, so He knows us better than we even know ourselves. He knows what's good for us, what will help us, and what will hurt us, and so we can rely on His wisdom to guide us. Our hearts, on the other hand, are affected by sin and don't always know what's right, so following our heart can lead us into trouble. So the wisest thing to do is trust God, not our own hearts.

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 is wisdom? Why is wisdom important?
2. Have you ever heard the advice "listen to/follow your heart" from a friend or in a movie? Is this good advice? Why or why not?
3. What is the danger in following our own hearts? Can you think of a time when you thought you were right, but ended up being wrong?
4. What does it mean to "lean on your own understanding"? What does it look like to trust in the Lord with all your heart and acknowledge Him in all your ways? How do we know what God wants us to do?
5. Why should we listen to God? Why does He get to tell us how to live?

On the Field

- A believer's first priority is to please the Lord in everything they do, including playing soccer. This season as we study the book of Proverbs, see what God's Word has to say about the way you play soccer and then try to put those things into practice.
- If the game seems unfair, trust in the Lord and continue to do the right thing, regardless of what those around you are doing.

Off the Field

- Study God's Word on your own so that you can know how God wants you to live.
- In your heart, you may be tempted to do things that God's Word tells us are wrong. In those situations, trust in God and do what He says, not what your heart wants.
- The Lord tells us to acknowledge Him in all our ways, or to live His way in every part of our lives. Think about what following Him might look like at school, at home, with your friends, etc.

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Proverbs 3:5-6 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. This season, we are going to look at verses throughout the book of Proverbs. The topics will be varied, but the theme we want to keep coming back to is God's wisdom vs. our own understanding.