

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

How many of you are playing your first ever soccer game today? If you have played before, think back to your first game ever. How did you know what to do? Your coaches and the referees were there to teach you how to play and explain the rules to you. When you choose to listen to them and follow the rules, the game will go well and everyone will have fun. But what would happen if everyone decided to ignore the coaches and refs and play by their own rules? That game would be chaos!

Just as you need your coaches to show you the right way to play soccer, we need God to tell us the right way to live our lives. We don't always know what's right or what we should do, so God gives us His "rules" for how to live in His Word. That leaves all of us with a choice to make: will we follow God's way and do what He wants us to, or will we live by our own rules? Proverbs 3:5-6 says that we should trust in the Lord with all our heart and not lean on our own understanding. That means that instead of living our own way doing what we want to do all the time, in every situation we should seek what God wants us to do, trust that He knows what's best, and live His way by obeying what He says.

Now some of you might be wondering, "Why does God get to tell me what to do? Don't I know the best way for me to live my life?" While we may think we know best, the problem is that our hearts are affected by sin. Sin twists our minds so that we don't always know what's good for us. But God is not affected by sin. He is perfect and knows all things. In

In the Word (Continued)

In addition, the Bible says that God created every one of us, and He knows us inside and out. In fact, He even knows us better than we know ourselves, and He loves us and wants what's best for us, so we can trust that He will always lead us in the right way. Sometimes we might think that something is good, but God's Word will say it is not. When that happens, our memory verse says that instead of listening to our own hearts, we should trust in God's wisdom and do what He says.

This year, we are going to study the book of Proverbs. Proverbs is a book full of wisdom about how to live our lives God's way. It teaches how to act, talk, and think in a way that pleases Him. If you pay attention to the verses we learn this year and try to do what they say, you will be living life according to God's wisdom, which is what we were created for.

"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

- A Christian's goal is to please the Lord in everything they do, including playing soccer. This season as we study the book of Proverbs, see what the Bible has to say about the way you play soccer and then try to do what it says.
- 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

- Ask your family to read the Bible with you 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.

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 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.