

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 2

Be Transformed

Be Transformed

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 lesson will teach students not to act like those around them, but to do the right thing no matter what others are doing.

Scripture Passage:

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Romans 12:2

Coaches Guide

Romans 12:2 contrasts two ways we can live. The first is the way of being conformed. Conforming means blending in to your surroundings. The person who conforms does what everyone around them is doing, even if what they're doing is wrong. They conform themselves to “the world,” a term the Bible uses for unbelievers.

In contrast, the transformed person lives a life that is changed by God. As Christians, we should live differently from the way we did before we were saved and not act like unbelievers. The world around us lives for pleasure and will sin if it makes them happy. But believers should live by God's Word and seek to do what is right and pleasing to the Lord, whether or not the people around us are doing the same thing.

As humans, our natural tendency is to conform. When others are being mean, we want to join in. If someone starts a fight, we want to fight back. If we get in trouble, we blame others and point out those who were doing the same. When we face peer pressure, we do what we know is wrong because it is harder to do what's right. However, living a life that is transformed means we don't act based on what others are doing. Being transformed means we seek to please the Lord in everything we do.

Living a transformed life shows the unbelieving world the “good and acceptable and perfect will of God,” as our verse says. When others see us living this way, it reveals to them who God is and what He is like, and that could lead them to become Christians too.

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 do you think Paul means by "conformed," "the world" and "transformed"? What does it mean to "not be conformed" and "be transformed"?
2. Can you think of situations when you might be tempted to conform, or join in, when others are doing something wrong? How can you live a life that is transformed by Christ in that situation?
3. How can living a transformed life show unbelievers what the good, acceptable, perfect will of God is?
4. What are some ways that you can live differently from unbelievers in a way that pleases God?

On the Field

- If your opponents, teammates, or even coaches or parents are doing the wrong thing, that does not make it okay to join them. Choose not to be conformed to those who are acting like the world.
- Instead, being transformed means that you should be the leader in doing right. Be the one who is encouraging when others are being unkind. Have a good attitude even when those around you do not.

Off the Field

- It is harder not to be conformed to the world when we surround ourselves with worldly people. Make wise decisions about who you spend time with and choose friends who will lead you closer to Jesus.
- Being transformed means living differently. People should notice a difference between you and your unsaved friends. When you see others doing the wrong thing this week, make the decision to do the right thing instead.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 12:1 (NIV), "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:2 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. This week, emphasize accountability for our own actions. Tell your team that no matter what they might see others doing, their focus should be on honoring the Lord in whatever they are doing.