

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 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.

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 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

## In the Word

Last week, we looked at what it means to be a living sacrifice (review what that means with the players). This week, Paul tells us not to be conformed to the world, but to be transformed. Those are some big words, so first we need to understand what they mean. The word “conformed” means someone who blends into their surroundings, like a chameleon. If other people are making fun of someone, they do it too. If everyone else is using bad words, they join right in. When Paul warns us not to be conformed to the world, he is saying that we shouldn't act like the people around us doing the wrong thing. Just because other people are doing something wrong doesn't make it okay.

Being transformed means turning into something else. A caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, or an ice cube transforms into water on a hot day. When Paul tells us to be transformed, he is saying that we need to change into something totally different from what the non-Christians around us are like and what we used to be. When others are mean, we should be kind. When the people around us are lying and cheating, we do the right thing and are honest. When our friends are using bad words, we choose to only say things that please the Lord. Keep in mind, being transformed doesn't mean being different just to be different. Paul isn't suggesting that we dye our hair blue or wear our shirts backwards. Being transformed means being different in the things we do. It means that even when those around us are doing the wrong thing, we do what's right.

## In the Word (Continued)

It is easy to focus on what others are doing rather than watching our own actions. We do what we see others doing so that we can fit in. When we get in trouble, we like to blame it on others or point out that someone else was doing the same thing. But being transformed means that we don't let what others are doing become an excuse. We are being transformed from our old life before we knew the Lord. We shouldn't act the way non-Christians act. Rather than acting like those around us or waiting for our friends to do the right thing, we should be the first one to do what's right, even if no one else is. Our job is not to make excuses, blame others for our behavior, or point out what others are doing wrong. We are supposed to make sure that we are obeying the Lord and trust God to take care of everything else.

"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

- 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.

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. 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.