

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 2

Do Justly

Do Justly

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 players that justice is doing what's fair and right to others.

Scripture Passage:

"Blessed are those who keep justice,
And he who does righteousness at all times!"

Psalm 106:3

In the Word

Have you ever been playing a game and felt like another player was cheating? Or maybe you were hanging out with friends and were treated differently than others? Did that make you feel good? Of course not! None of us like it when things are unfair. We want to be treated right, the way we feel we deserve. As we will see today, God cares a lot about people treating one another fairly too.

Last week, we learned that in order to make God happy, Micah 6:8 says we need to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord. Today we are going to look at how to "do justly." The phrase "do justly" means to treat people with justice. Justice is an important Bible word that refers to doing what's right and treating others with fairness. That can include treating everyone equally rather than showing favoritism, obeying the rules so that you do everything fairly, and helping people who are mistreated by others, such as the poor. Treating people with justice is important if we want to please the Lord.

The best way to truly understand justice is to look at the way Jesus treated people in Scripture. He helped people, whether they were rich and important or poor and disliked. He did what was right to others, even when it was difficult and would cost Him something. He stood up for those who were mistreated. And even when others were unfair to Him, He continued to show justice to them. If we want to "do justly" and please the Lord, we should follow His example. We can treat everyone fairly and not

In the Word (Continued)

show favoritism. We can help people who are mistreated by others and love even when it costs us something. And we can show justice to others even when they are unjust to us.

None of us want to be treated unfairly, and we often get upset when we don't get justice. When we play soccer and the other team is cheating, or when our brother or sister gets more food than us at dinner time, we might complain that it's unfair. But our memory verse, Psalm 106:3, says that the person who keeps justice is blessed. In other words, for us as Christians, it is more important to *treat other people* with justice than to *be treated fairly ourselves*. We can't control what others do to us, but we can make sure that we treat others in a fair and godly way. Let's try to please God by doing what's right to others and treating them fairly.

"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

- Just because you think you can get away with cheating doesn't mean you should do it. Play with fairness and justice.
- If you think the other team is cheating, that doesn't give you an excuse to break a rule yourself. Injustice can't be fought with more injustice.
- Don't disrespect the referee if you think a call was unfair. Remember, it's more important to give justice than to make sure you receive it.

Off the Field

- When someone does something wrong that hurts you, justice isn't getting even with that person. Justice is continuing to do what's right.
- Are you treating others fairly but not receiving justice in return? Remember that our verse says God will bless those who keep justice.
- You may know someone who is not treated with much justice. It's especially important to show kindness and love to someone like that.

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, Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Psalm 106:3 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. You can't control whether the other team plays fairly or if the ref will make the right calls, but you can control how you play and respond. As a team, commit to playing justly and fairly, no matter what happens.