

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 2

Heavenly Rewards

Heavenly Rewards

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 live with an eternal mindset and be willing to give up worldly pleasures in order to follow Christ.

Scripture Passage:

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. **For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

Matthew 16:24-27 (Memory Verse, Matthew 16:25, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

Sometimes in life, we face choices where we have to give up short-term pleasures to receive long-term benefits, like not eating junk food in order to be healthier, or practicing instead of watching TV to get better at soccer. We often have to do this in our walk with the Lord as well.

Last week, we learned how Christ calls us to give up everything and be His disciple. That's a huge commitment, and many would question why we should make such a big sacrifice. But today's verses show us that while being a disciple might require us to make difficult choices here and now, obeying Christ is always worth it because of the reward in the end.

Matthew 16:25-27 tells us that one day, Jesus (the Son of Man) will come and repay everyone based on how they lived. Those who live for themselves may enjoy their sin for a time, but will never experience the life that God intended for them. But for believers who deny themselves and give their lives to following Christ, the end result is greater than anything you can imagine: eternity spent with Christ in heaven. In addition, Jesus promises heavenly rewards for our faithfulness to Him.

Knowing that our actions will be rewarded later should affect how we live right now. We often face temptations where the instant pleasure of sin seems so appealing, or the demands of obeying Jesus seem so difficult. But when we remember that Jesus will reward us for our faithfulness in eternity, it can help us to do what's right here and now. This is called living with an eternal mindset.

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. Have you ever had to make a decision to give up something you wanted right now in order to get something even better later on?
2. What did we learn last week about what it takes to follow Jesus? Why would someone make such a big commitment?
3. Verse 27 says that Christ will come day and reward us based on how we live our lives. How might that truth affect your daily decisions? Have you ever had to make a decision to obey Jesus that was difficult at the time, but was worth it in the end?
4. What does it mean to live with an eternal mindset? Are you living right now for earthly pleasure, or for heavenly rewards?

On the Field

- In heaven, what will truly matter about this game is not who won or how many goals you scored, but whether or not you pleased the Lord. Make sure that the way you treat others honors Him.
- It's not easy to be kind when another player is showing you bad sportsmanship. Rather than responding based on your feelings and being mean back, continue to do what's right.
- You can use soccer to bring glory to God by using it as a platform to share your faith and God's love with others.

Off the Field

- Sometimes, a sin can be really tempting, but remember that obeying Jesus is always worth it in the end, even if you have to deny yourself something you really want right now.
- Living for eternity isn't just about giving up sinful things, but also doing good things. When you help others or spend time with Jesus, you are doing things that will bear eternal rewards.
- As a disciple, your life is not about you. Ask God how He wants you to serve Him.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 16:24, "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'" Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 16:25 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. In sports and in life, we face many decisions every day, and sometimes it's difficult to know what's right. Encourage the players to think about the eternal consequences of the decisions they make.