

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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**)

In the Word

Imagine I promised you that if you gave up your favorite toy for a week, I would give you every toy you ever wanted. Would you do it? It might be hard not to have that toy for a week, and you might miss it and be sad, but once that week was over, you'd be happy because you'd have something even better.

Last week, we learned that Jesus also asks us to give something up: not just a toy, but our whole lives. If we want to be His disciple, we have to say no to what we want and instead live the way He tells us. That's a really big decision, and maybe you're wondering why someone would make that choice. Today's verses tell us the answer.

According to Matthew 16:25-27, one day, Jesus is going to come back to earth and look at the way each of us has lived our lives. Those who choose not to follow Him and instead live selfishly and do the sinful things they want to do will suffer the punishment of their decision and be separated from God forever. But for anyone who chooses to be a disciple, give up the things that they want, and follow Jesus, the reward will be incredible: they will spend eternity with Jesus in heaven, a place that will be more wonderful and beautiful and fun and joyful than any of us could ever imagine!

This leaves each of us with a choice to make. Will I make my life all about me? Today's memory says that if I try to save my life, I'll lose the life God wants for me. Or will I give up my life in order to follow Jesus? If I do

In the Word (Continued)

that, Jesus says I will find my life, which is eternal life with Him. Living life my own way might sound nice for a time, but what good is it if I miss out on spending eternity with Jesus in the end?

We often face choices where obeying Jesus is not easy. Your parents might ask you to stop playing and clean up your toys, but you really want to keep playing with them. Your friends might ask you to do something that you know is wrong, but you want to please your friends and fit in. When we have these decisions, it is important remember that while following Jesus isn't easy, there is great reward in the end when we obey Him. In heaven, we'll be glad for the times that we chose to follow the Lord. So when doing what's right is hard, remember God's promises, follow Jesus, and He will reward you.

"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

- 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.

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, 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.