

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 2

*Love*

# Love

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 show that Christ is the reason we love others and the example of how we should love them.

## Scripture Passage:

"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**"

1 John 4:9-11 (memory verse, 1 John 4:11, **in bold**)

## Coaches Guide

The word "love" means so many different things in our culture. I can say, "I love my parents," "I love my wife/husband," and, "I love pizza," and all of these statements use that same word love, but mean different things. The problem then becomes that when the Bible tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, we don't know what that means, who we should love, or why we should love them.

Mark 12:30-31 tells us that Christians should love God and other people, but we all know that it can be hard to love others, especially when they don't love us back or when they don't deserve our love. Luckily, love doesn't start with us. It starts with Jesus and what He has done. Because of all that He has done for us (leaving heaven, becoming human, suffering, dying), 1 John 4:11 says that we should love one another. If Jesus was willing to do all that for us, we should be able to love others, even those who are difficult to love. We love such people not because they deserve it, but because it honors Christ and His love for us.

Christ is not only the motivation for our love, but also the example. Look at all the ways Jesus loved others. He loved at all times. He loved people who didn't deserve His love. He loved unconditionally. He loved even if it caused Him pain or suffering. He loved self-sacrificially. He loved above and beyond what was expected of Him. We could spend all day looking at what love is and how we can love people, but at the end of the day, the best way to learn how to love is to look at Christ's example.

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. Think of the different ways we use the word "love" is used. What do they mean? What kind of love are we supposed to have for others as Christians?
2. According to 1 John 4:9-11, why should we love others? Is it based on their worthiness, or what Christ has done? Go over what Christ has done for us to show His love for us.
3. How did Christ model love for us? What things can we learn about how to love others from Him?

## On the Field

- During a game, there will be someone who is difficult to love: an opponent, a teammate, a ref. We are told not just to put up with them, but to actively love them. Look for ways you can help and show kindness to someone, even when it's hard.
- Acts of love on the soccer field can include encouraging words, helping people up when they fall, congratulating them, giving others a chance to play, and more. See how many ways you can come up with.

## Off the Field

- Think of a person in your life that is difficult to love. Make a plan of how to show love to that person this week.
- Loving your family is more than just doing what you're supposed to (chores). Do something you don't have to do just to show love, such as making a meal or cleaning a parent or sibling's room for them.
- Be on the lookout for people who don't get a lot of love and find ways to show them love.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Galatians 5:22-23. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 John 4:11 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Take note of loving actions you notice in your players this week and point them out to the rest of the team.
4. Have your team be on the lookout for people who need some extra love this week and find ways to love those people.