

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 2

Many Members

Many Members

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 show that in the Body of Christ (and on our team), every member plays an important part and is necessary.

Scripture Passage:

"For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? **But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.** And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary." 1 Corinthians 12:14-22 (memory verse, 1 Cor 12:18, in bold)

In the Word

Last week, we learned about how Christians (and our team) are like a body. Just as a body is made up of many different parts, yet all the parts come together to form one body, the Body of Christ is made up of many different people, and our team is made up of all kinds of players, but we all come together to form one Body, one Church, and one team.

Our body parts all have different abilities. Our eyes are able to see, but they aren't so good at walking. Our hands can pick things up, but they can't be used to hear. The same way, we all have different abilities, talents, and strengths. You might be gifted at running, math, dancing, reading, or art. Someone else on our team might be good at other things. Some of us are better at offense, others at defense. Yet just because we are different from one another doesn't mean we are any more or less needed. Each of us was created for a different, important job in Christ's Body.

To make this point, Paul uses two funny examples in today's verses. First, he imagines a foot saying that it wasn't part of the body just because it wasn't a hand. The foot may not be able to do the hand's job, but what the foot does is just as important. Then he pictures the eye telling the hand that the hand wasn't needed. Sure eyes are great, but they are not more important than the hand.

The example may be funny, but it makes an important point. Maybe you think that your team doesn't need you because you haven't scored any goals, even though you are a good defender. Perhaps you think that

In the Word (Continued)

you're just a kid, and so God could never use you to help others or tell people about Him. Or you may think that you don't need your teammates because you score a lot, or that God loves you more than others because you know a lot of Bible verses. Our verses remind us that each member of our team and of the Body of Christ was created for a different job, and each job is important. A soccer team needs defenders as much as forwards. If everyone played offense, who would protect the goal? The Church needs kids who love the Lord, not just pastors or Sunday School teachers. Each of us was made specially by God for an important purpose, and no one here is more important than another. We are all needed both on this team and in our churches, and none of us can do our jobs without everyone else. Every part of the Body of Christ is important.

"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

- Do you think you're the star player on the team? Remember that you can't win without your teammates and be sure to encourage them in the things they do.
- Do you think your team doesn't need you? Remember what we learned about the body: just like every part of the body is needed, every player on the team has an important job.

Off the Field

- God has given every believer special gifts and talents that can be used to serve the Lord. Think about how God has gifted you and ways you can use those gifts to help Christians or tell unbelievers about Jesus.
- People who have different gifts or talents than you are not any more or less important than you. Treat everyone with love and respect.

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, 1 Corinthians 12:12. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 Corinthians 12:18 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Focus on pointing out the gifts and skill sets that all of your players have. Point out how each person plays a valuable, important part on the team.