

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 3

*By Your Love*

# By Your 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 teach the kids how our love for others identifies us as believers and show them what Christian love, as seen in Christ, looks like.

## Scripture Passage:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**"

John 13:34-35 (Memory Verse, John 13:35, in **bold**)

## Coaches Guide

How can you tell that someone is a Christian? Someone might go to church, or talk or act a certain way, and those are good things, but that's not what Jesus said would identify His followers. Rather, in John 13:34-35, Jesus said that the world will know that we're His disciples by our love for others, and especially for our fellow believers.

Of course, these verses are not saying that only Christians can love people. An unbeliever still loves their friends and family. What makes Christians different then is *how* we love others. And the way that we are told to love is as Jesus has loved us. He is the ultimate example of what Christian love should look like.

So what does it mean to love others as Jesus loved us? Jesus loved self-sacrificially. He didn't just help people when it was convenient. He put the needs of others above His own, and was willing to serve and bless people at great cost to Himself. He even paid the ultimate price, His life, to save humanity. Jesus' love was also different because of who He loved. Not only did He love His family and friends, but also strangers, the poor, sinners, and even those who hated Him. He loved others with no regard to if they deserved it or would love Him in return.

Loving people the way that Jesus loved us is not easy. In fact, in our own strength it is impossible. Christian love doesn't come from inside of us. It comes from Jesus. In order to love others this way, we need to pray and ask Jesus for His love to flow in and through us.

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. How can you tell that someone is a Christian? In John 15:34-35, how does Jesus say that people will know that you're Jesus' disciple?
2. Do only Christians love others? What makes Christian love different from the way that non-Christians love?
3. How did Jesus teach us to love others? What example did He set? What does it mean to love self-sacrificially?
4. Who does Jesus command us to love? Are there people who are difficult for you to love? How can you show them love?
5. Is it possible to love people as Christ loved us in our own strength? How can we obey this command?

## On the Field

- Love your teammates by looking for ways to bless them. It can be as simple as getting a ball for someone, giving some tips to a player who needs help, or asking how you can pray for them.
- You might not want to love your opponents today, but they are your brothers and sisters in Christ. Show them kindness with your words and actions, no matter how the game goes.
- Respecting and obeying your coaches and the refs is another great way to show love.

## Off the Field

- Is there someone who is difficult for you to love? Think of something kind you can say to them or do for them to show them love.
- Sometimes our families can be the hardest people to love. Obey your parents/guardians with a good attitude and be kind to your siblings.
- Jesus is our ultimate example of love. To learn how to love others as Jesus has loved us, read about Him in His Word.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 16:25, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize John 13:35 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Have the players think of someone that is difficult for them to love. Brainstorm ways to show love to those who are unloving to us, and then pray and ask Jesus to help them love these people.