

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 3

Joy

Joy

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 the kids that a believer's joy is found in meditating on what Christ has done for us in saving and blessing us.

Scripture Passage:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"

Philippians 4:4

In the Word

Today we are going to look at the second fruit of the Spirit, joy. Now in Philippians 4:4, Paul tells us that as believers, our joy means rejoicing in the Lord always. Some think that this means that Christians have to be happy all the time, but we all know from experience that it's impossible. Have you always stayed happy every time you got hurt, someone annoyed you, or something else bad happened? Luckily, Christian joy isn't the same thing as being happy all the time. It's much better than that.

Look at the verse again. It says to rejoice *in the Lord*. The difference between Christian joy and worldly happiness is the reason we have joy. Non-Christians have their mood determined by what happens to them. When good things happen, they are happy, but when bad things happen, they are sad. But Christians can and should be joyful in all things, not because of the things that happened to us, but because of what God has done for us. Jesus has forgiven our sins and made us sons and daughters of God. That's a good enough reason to be happy all the time, no matter what else happens to us.

Joy doesn't mean that we should be happy about the bad things that happen to us. We don't thank Jesus that we fell down the steps or got hurt in our soccer game. Instead, we are joyful because even though bad things

In the Word (Continued)

happen to us, the good things that Jesus has done are so much better. It would be like getting an awesome present for your birthday and then tripping on your shoelaces to get to it. Sure you might be upset that you fell, but the present is so great that the trip doesn't even seem to matter.

So how can we do this? The key is focusing on the good things God has done for us rather than thinking about ourselves. As long as we look at the bad things that might happen to us, we will forget about the good things God has done and is doing in our lives. Instead, we should take time every day to think on all that God has done for us (first by saving us, and then by giving us additional blessings) and our future hope with Him. As we shift our eyes from our present circumstances to all we have in Jesus, the Holy Spirit will give us the power to have joy.

"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

- There are many bad things that can happen to you in a soccer game (injuries, fouls, loss). True Christian joy means that in those circumstances, we will have joy because of all the good things God has done for us.
- Joy in defeat doesn't mean that you won't be disappointed, but that you recognize that who we are in Christ is way better than a soccer game. In victory, joy is not boasting in the win but giving thanks to God.

Off the Field

- Spend time this week thinking of all the reasons Christ gives us to have joy. Then pray and thank God for saving you and for giving you all kinds of blessings.
- This week you will probably experience a difficult situation. In those situations, try to remember all that Jesus has done for you.
- The joy of Christ is so great that we should share about Him with our unbelieving friends and family so they can share in our joy.

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 John 4:11. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 4:4 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Before the game, have the team come up with as many reasons to be joyful in the Lord as possible. After the game, win or lose, review that list and make sure the team leaves in joy.