

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 3

Love Mercy

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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 players that mercy means treating people with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness, and that we should treat others with mercy.

Scripture Passage:

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32

Coaches Guide

Last week, we talked about justice and fairness. To some, justice means giving people what they deserve by treating them the way they treat you. The problem is that we live in a sinful world where people often mistreat one another, and if we all treated one another that way, it would just create a cycle of sin and unkindness. That's why, after telling us to do justly, Micah 6:8 tells us to love mercy.

The term Micah 6:8 uses for “mercy” is a Hebrew word loaded with meaning. It includes not only our traditional understanding of mercy, which is not giving someone the consequence they deserve, but also a loving, compassionate kindness. In Ephesians 4:32, we see three aspects of mercy broken down for us: kindness, compassion (“tenderhearted”), and forgiveness. These three elements help us to understand what Micah 6:8 means by, “Love kindness.” Mercy as described in Ephesians 4:32 is the proper response when we aren't treated with justice. We should continue to show kindness, be sympathetic and compassionate (try to understand their point of view), and forgive the person who wronged us.

The reason we should show mercy is found at the end of the verse: Christ forgave us. He could have left us dead in our sin. After all, we are sinners. We deserve to be separated from God. Instead, He died on the cross and forgave our sin so that we could spend eternity with Him. Since Jesus showed us mercy, we should be willing to show mercy to others, even those who are unkind to 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. Last week, we talked about "doing justly." What is justice? Is treating people the way they treat you justice? What would happen if everyone acted that way?
2. What does it mean to love mercy? What is mercy according to Ephesians 4:32? What are kindness, compassion, and forgiveness?
3. How do "doing justly" and "loving mercy" fit together?
4. Why should we show mercy to those who sin against us?
5. Share about a time when you were treated unfairly. How did you respond? Did you show mercy?

On the Field

- Did another player foul or hurt you? Don't play dirty or try to get even. Forgive them.
- Are you in a disagreement or fight with a teammate? Try to understand how they feel (show compassion), forgive them for anything they did to you, and be kind to them.
- Refs make mistakes, and mercy is more than just not yelling at them. Be kind, understanding, and forgiving to them.

Off the Field

- It's hardest to show mercy to those closest to us. Be kind and forgiving toward your family when they get on your nerves.
- When you get into a fight with another person, the best way to restore that relationship is to show mercy. Try to understand things from their point of view, forgive them, and keep showing them kindness.
- Be kind to others even when they treat you with injustice.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Psalm 106:3, "Blessed are those who keep justice, and he who does righteousness at all times!" Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:32 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. When one of your players gets upset with someone this week, encourage them to show mercy to that person with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness.