

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 3

Love One Another

Love One Another

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 teach the players why and how we should love one another as part of the Body of Christ.

Scripture Passage:

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

1 John 4:7-8 (Memory verse, 1 John 4:7, in **bold**)

In the Word

So far this season, we have learned that we are all part of the Body of Christ. Like parts of the body, we were all created differently in our appearances, likes, skills, and abilities, yet we all come together to form one body, one Church, and one team. Knowing that we all as believers are one Body should change how we treat one another.

In 1 John 4:7-8, we read that being in the Body of Christ means loving one another. God is love, and loving one another is the sign that we are part of God's family, the Church. It makes sense then that we should love each other because we are all part of the same Body. Saying we are part of the Body of Christ but not loving one another would be like our ears saying they love being part of the body, but hate our nose. Loving the body means loving the whole body, and we can't claim to be part of Christ's Body unless we love our fellow believers.

In fact, verse 8 says if we don't love others, we don't really know God because God is love. On the other hand, we read that if we are loving others, that's proof that we know God. Jesus Himself said that our love for each other would be the way the world knows that we're Christians (John 13:35). Love is part of who we are as believers because God is love.

But what does love even mean? How do we love one another? Love isn't just being nice to people if they're nice to you. It's more than happy, fuzzy feelings we have toward someone. We love people with our actions. The Bible says that Jesus gave us the best picture of what love is when He

In the Word (Continued)

died for us on the cross. He didn't just say He loved us, He showed it by saving us, even though He had to give up His life, and even though we were sinners. True love means doing something for others, even when it's hard, will cost us something, or the other person doesn't deserve it.

There are so many different ways we can love others like Christ did. We show love when we forgive someone who does wrong to us, even if they never apologize. We can love someone by doing something kind for them, even though it's difficult. We are loving others when we are willing to miss out or give something up ourselves in order to do what's best for them. When we don't love one another, we all have no one but ourselves to take care of us. But when we all love one another, we have a whole team and Body of Christ looking out for us.

"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

- Is someone on your team hard to love? Go out of your way to do something nice for them to show them God's love.
- We can love our teammates by encouraging them, helping them when they need it, praying for them, and including everyone.
- Remember that your opponents and the refs are also part of the Body of Christ. Treat them with kindness as you compete today with your words and actions.

Off the Field

- As Christians, we are called to love others even if they don't love us. Think of someone who is difficult to love. What kind thing can you do for them?
- Love is not just doing what you're supposed to do, but doing kind things you don't have to do. In addition to obeying parents and teachers, do something nice that will make them happy.
- Consider others' needs first. If you and someone else both want something, let them go first.

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 12:18. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 John 4:7 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. The Bible tells us not just to love our friends, but those who are unkind to us too. Challenge your players to show love this week to someone who is difficult to love.