

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 3

Thinking Humbly

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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 lesson will look at the biblical definition of humility and present it as a model for the players.

Scripture Passage:

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you... **Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.**"

Romans 12:3, 16 (NIV; Memory Verse, Romans 12:16, **in bold**)

Coaches Guide

Romans 12:3 and 16 provide us with a biblical picture of what humility looks like. Humble people rightly recognize their limitations and weaknesses rather than boasting or thinking of themselves too highly. Biblical humility produces peace, as humble people think of others rather than themselves. Humble people also associate with everybody, not just those whom they think are "good enough" for them.

Some people equate humility with thinking poorly of yourself. Such a person might point out their flaws and downplay or outright deny their strengths, but that's called false humility. Humility doesn't mean thinking less of yourself. It means thinking of yourself less. Humble people are outward-focused. Rather than spending all their time thinking (positively or negatively) about themselves, they think of how to bless others.

Our world says that life is all about you and looking out for yourself, but that is not what the Bible teaches. Philippians 2:1-4 tells us that humility means not looking out for your own interests, but the interests of others. Then verses 5-8 show how Jesus is the ultimate example of this. He left heaven's comforts to join in the pains of humanity so that He could save us. Humility means placing others before ourselves. If each player on this team played with their own interests in mind, the team would be a train wreck. But when they work together, the team performs well. The same way, God designed the Church to function when we are all living in humility, thinking of others rather than ourselves.

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. According to Romans 12:3 and 16, what does it mean to be humble? What does humility look like?
2. Does humility mean thinking bad thoughts about ourselves? If not, how should the humble person think of him/herself?
3. Why is humility important? How would this team or your home, school, church, and community look if everyone was humble and looked out for others more than themselves?
4. How does humility make you different from others around you?
5. How was Jesus an example of humility? How can we copy His example?

On the Field

- When you score a goal, make a great pass, or play good defense, don't make it all about yourself. Celebrate what your teammates did and give glory to Christ.
- Take time to get to know some of your teammates who might not have as many friends on the team as you do.
- Be willing to do things you don't like (sit on the bench, wait to get the last snack, play a different position than normal) so that others can be blessed.

Off the Field

- Romans 12:16 says, "Associate with people of low position." This can refer to kids at school or in your neighborhood who might not be considered "cool" or have many friends. Spend time this week with someone who could use a friend.
- Pay attention to how often you talk about yourself and how much you talk about others. Work at making your speech more about encouraging others than boasting about yourself.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:16 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. After the game, give the players an opportunity to compliment their teammates on what they did well. Make sure the emphasis is not on personal accomplishments, but team achievement and Christ's glory.