

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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**)

In the Word

Have you ever been around someone who only talks or cares about themselves? People like that are difficult to get along with. Instead of being self-centered (also called prideful), the Bible tells us to be humble.

Romans 12:3 and 16 give a great description of what humility means. Humble people don't think or talk about themselves as smarter, faster, stronger, or in any way better than they actually are (or any less than they are either). They live at harmony with others and treats people with love, kindness, and respect, even those who may be less cool, smart, athletic, or important than them.

Some people thin that humility means always talking bad about yourself. They might say things like, "I'm not very smart," or "I don't have any friends," even though those things aren't true. This is far from what true humility is supposed to look like. Being humble is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.

A humble person is always thinking about others, not themselves, and looking for ways to bless the people around them. As Philippians 2:4 puts it, we should look out not for our own interest (the things we want), but the interests of others. Then in Philippians 2:5-8, we see how Jesus is the perfect example of humility. He really is better than others—He's the Son of God! But He still came to earth as a man and died on the cross to save us from our sins. We didn't deserve it, but He did what was best for us, not for Himself.

In the Word (Continued)

Today's verse says to live in harmony (peace) with others. When we are prideful and self-centered, it is difficult to live in peace, because everyone will be looking out for themselves, even if it hurts others. But when we are humble and look for ways to bless one another, it is much easier to live in peace. Think about how awesome this team, or your school, home, and neighborhood would be if everyone looked out for others, not just themselves.

This world says that life is all about living for yourself and getting what you want, but the Bible paints a very different picture. Living humbly, as Jesus did, is the path to true peace. So how does this team want to live? Are we going to be humble team that cares about one another, or a selfish and prideful team without peace?

"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

- 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.

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, 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.