

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 3

Watch Your Words

Watch Your Words

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 encourage the kids to carefully consider the words they say and use their tongues for good, not evil.

Scripture Passage:

**“He who guards his mouth preserves his life,
But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.”**

Proverbs 13:3

Coaches Guide

The Bible places great importance on our words. In fact, Proverbs 18:21 says that life and death are in the power of the tongue. Our words have power to do great good, or great evil. We can build others up through telling the truth, encouraging, and giving thanks, or we can tear people down through lies, gossip, complaining, and insults.

Proverbs 13:3 tells us to guard our mouths by watching what we say and making sure our words are honoring to God. In the ancient world, the guard of a city would stand at the gate and make sure that those who entered were there for a good reason and would not do harm. The same way, today's verse says that we need to be careful about the words that come out of our mouths. Before we speak, we should stop and think, “Will what I say please or displease the Lord? Will it help others or hurt them?” Watching our words can keep us from all kinds of trouble.

The second half of the verse warns against opening your mouth wide, or saying whatever comes to your mind without first considering whether it is true, kind, or right. The quicker we are to speak, the more likely we are to sin, and today's verse cautions that there can be serious consequences when we aren't careful with our words. Careless speech can hurt others, spread lies, and get us into trouble.

Each of us need to take stock of the way we use our mouths. Not only should we remove any sinful speech, but we should also look for ways we can use our words to please the Lord.

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. The Bible has a lot to say about our words. Why do you think that is? What are some ways that our words can be used for good? What are some wrong ways to use our mouths?
2. What do you think it means to "guard your mouth"?
3. What does it mean to open wide your lips? Why is it important to think before you speak? Have you ever gotten in to trouble for saying something without thinking?
4. How do you use your mouth? Do you struggle with lying, complaining, gossip, or tearing people down? Are there ways you could use your words to please the Lord instead?

On the Field

- In sports, you may be tempted to use your words to put others down. Instead, look for chance to build people up and encourage them.
- Bragging and boasting when you play soccer is wrong. Instead of taking all the credit for your performance, give thanks to the Lord, who gave you the ability to play.
- Don't criticize the referees, either to their face or behind their back. Instead, thank them for giving of their time to serve.

Off the Field

- The best, most important things you can do with your mouth are worship God and tell others about Jesus.
- Don't be so quick to speak. Before you say something, first consider whether or not it is true, helpful, and kind.
- Things like complaining and gossip might not seem like a big deal, but they are wrong and can hurt you and others. Instead, use your words to encourage others and give thanks.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 4:23 (NIRV), "Above everything else, guard your heart. Everything you do comes from it." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Proverbs 13:3 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize both the negative (removing sinful speech) and positive (good things we should say) aspects of using our words to please the Lord. Both are necessary and important, and actively pursuing godly speech also helps to prevent sinful speech.