

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

What do you think is the strongest body part? The arm? The leg? The brain? The Bible says that one of the mightiest parts of the body is the tongue. That's because we use our tongues to speak, and our words are very powerful. They have the ability to do great good, or great evil.

Think about all the different things you can do with your words. You can worship God, tell the truth, encourage others, give thanks, and talk about Jesus. When you use your mouth to do these things, it pleases the Lord. But we can also use our lips in sinful ways by lying, gossiping, complaining, and tearing others down.

Because our words are powerful, we need to make sure our speech honors the Lord. That's why Proverbs 13:3 says to guard our mouths, like a city guard in Bible times. Back then, a guard's job was to stand at the city gate to let in those who belonged in the city and keep out anyone who wanted to do harm. The same way, we need to guard our mouths by making sure that we only allow words that please God to come through.

Our verse tells us that guarding our mouths is wise. But if we open our lips wide, meaning that we aren't careful with our words and just say whatever comes into our minds, it can get us into trouble. Before you speak, stop and consider what you are going to say. Ask yourself, is it good? Is it true? Is it kind? Most importantly, does it please the Lord? If the answer to those questions is no, then you should not say what you were going to say.

In the Word (Continued)

Some people think that our words don't really matter that much, but the Bible tells us that what we say can have big consequences. When we use sinful speech, we can get into trouble, cause fights, spread lies, or hurt people's feelings. On the other hand, godly speech can teach and encourage others and make people feel really good on the inside. And most importantly, we can use our words to praise the Lord and share the Gospel with others.

Think about the way you talk. Do you try to always tell the truth, or do you tell a lot of lies? Do you build people up, or tear them down? Are you thankful, or do you complain a lot? Let's make it our goal to remove sinful speech from our lives, and instead fill our mouths with words that please the Lord.

"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

- In sports, you may be tempted to use your words to make fun of others and put them 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.

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, 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.