

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 3

Whatever is Noble and Right

Whatever is Noble and Right

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 teach the students the importance of doing what is right even when it is difficult.

Scripture Passage:

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:21

Coaches Guide

The next two items on our Philippians 4:8 list are, "Whatever is noble, whatever is right." Taken together, these two tell us that we should think about and do what the Lord tells us to do in any circumstance. Our emphasis today will be on doing what's right even when it's difficult.

Knowing the right thing to do is often (though not always) simple. We know we are supposed to obey authority, be kind to people, stand up for others, etc. Even when we aren't sure, the Bible tells us what's right, as we learned last week. The problem is, there are often challenges that make it harder to do the right thing. These difficulties include laziness, dislike of another person, peer pressure, and more. As believers, the Lord calls us to do what's right despite these difficulties.

Romans 12:21 talks about us either overcoming or being overcome by evil. The word "overcome" is often used in sports and battle to refer to defeating an opponent, so it is as if the Bible is setting up a matchup between us and evil. When we allow difficulties to keep us from doing what's right, evil defeats us. But when we honor the Lord despite temptations to do otherwise, we are overcoming evil with good.

Notice that this verse doesn't just say not to give in to evil, but to overcome it with good. There is more to the Christian life than saying "no" to sin. We defeat sin not just by avoiding what is wrong, but by actively doing what is right. For example, not only should we avoid mistreating our siblings, we should actively be showing them love and kindness.

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. What do you think Philippians 4:8 means by, "Whatever is noble, whatever is right"?
2. What are some challenges that can sometimes make it difficult to do the right thing?
3. What does the word "overcome" mean? Why does Paul use that word in Romans 12:21? What do you think this verse means?
4. What does it mean to "overcome evil with good"? Does it just mean not doing bad things, or something more?

On the Field

- It can be hard to respect your opponents while you are playing against them. Be sure to treat them as brothers and sisters in Christ, even as you play against them.
- When your team is losing, you may be tempted to say or do things that are not right. Make sure your words and actions honor the Lord, no matter the score.
- Obey your coaches, even if they ask you to play a position you don't want to play.

Off the Field

- Sometimes your siblings are the hardest people to love. Do something nice for them, even if they are unkind to you.
- Don't just obey your parents. Try doing things they want without being told what to do.
- If you see someone getting bullied, stand up for them, even if no one else is.
- Are others pressuring you to do something that's wrong? Do whatever it takes to say no, even if it means people will treat you differently.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, John 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:21 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize to the kids that while we want to do our best and try to win the game, what's most important today is that we honor the Lord and do what's right.
4. If there are any kids who haven't learned Philippians 4:8 yet, encourage them to do so.