

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 year olds**

Week 4

*Humility and Service*

# Humility and Service

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 teach the players to follow in Jesus' example of humility and service toward others.

## Scripture Passage:

"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— **just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**'"

Matthew 20:25-28 (Memory Verse, Matthew 20:28, in **bold**)

## In the Word

Have you ever wanted to be a king or queen? If you were a king or queen, you could have anything you wanted, go wherever you'd like, and tell people what to do, and they'd have to do it for you. Our world thinks that if you're great, if you're someone who's rich, powerful, and famous, then other people should serve you. But as we will see today, Jesus taught that His followers should seek a different, heavenly kind of greatness.

During Christ's time on earth, His disciples often argued over which of them was the greatest. In fact, in today's passage the mother of two of His disciples went up to Him and asked if her sons could have thrones right next to Him in heaven. These disciples believed that they were the greatest, and that meant they should receive more honor and power than the others. They had the wrong idea of what greatness is.

But notice Jesus' response in Matthew 20:25-28. He doesn't get angry at His disciples for seeking greatness, but rather says that they are looking for it in the wrong place. The kings of this earth think that they are great because other people serve them, but to be great in the kingdom of God, you need to humble yourself and serve others.

Jesus is the ultimate example of humble service. He truly is the greatest. He's King of the whole universe! If He wanted, He could tell His disciples, or anyone else, to do something, and they would have to do it. But as our memory verse says, Jesus didn't come to make people serve Him, but so that He could serve others. Throughout His time on earth, He

## In the Word (Continued)

put the wants and needs of others before His own and always looked for ways to bless people. One time, He even washed His disciples' feet, doing a job that was usually done by the lowest servant. And of course, the greatest way He served others was by becoming a "ransom for many" when He died on the cross to pay for our sins.

If we want to be disciples of Christ, we need to follow His example of humble service. That means not looking for how others can bless you, but how you can help other people. You may have to take a lower position or let others have something that you wanted. Christians serve others, not because we expect them to serve us back, but because we know that it pleases Jesus and that He will reward us in heaven. So as disciples of Jesus, let's be like our Master and serve others!

"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

- Serve your coaches by asking them what you can do to help out and being obedient when they give you instructions. They will definitely appreciate it.
- You can show humility to the other team after the game either by being gracious to them if you win, or by congratulating them if you lose.
- What makes you great on the soccer field is not how many goals you score or games you win, but how you serve and treat those around you.

### Off the Field

- Look for ways you can help out around the house, even without your parents asking.
- Instead of making sure that you always get what you want and things go your way, look out for others and do what you can to bless and please them.
- God has called you as children to be obedient to your parents/guardians and teachers. One way you can serve the adults in your life is by listening to them.

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, John 13:35, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Matthew 20:28 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Challenge your players to think of a way that they can serve someone today by doing something kind and helpful for a parent/guardian, coach, friend, sibling, or neighbor.