

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 4

My Cup Runs Over

My Cup Runs Over

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 look at the many ways God blesses us, and how we should respond with thanksgiving.

Scripture Passage:

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.**"

Psalm 23:1-5 (verse 5 in bold)

Coaches Guide

In our last two lessons, we studied how, as our Shepherd, the Lord guides and protects us. Today we will see how He abundantly provides for us, and how our proper response is to give Him thanks.

Psalm 23:5 starts to move away from the Shepherd/Sheep analogy and looks at the real-life benefits David has experienced as a result of following the Lord. The first, a table in the presence of his enemies, refers to God's provision even in the midst of difficulties in his life. The second blessing, oil, was a luxury item in the ancient world. It shows that God doesn't just give us the bare necessities, but delights to bless us with nice things. The third benefit, an overflowing cup, shows the abundance of blessing. God gives us more than we can ever ask or imagine.

For most people, it is much easier to focus on what you don't have than on what you do have, or to take the things you do have for granted. But God doesn't owe us anything, not even the food we drink or air we breathe. It is all a gift from God. On top of that, He gives us all kinds of other blessings: bodies that can play soccer, family, friends, and more. Because of all that He gives us, we should thank Him. Being thankful helps us recognize all that the Lord does for us.

Even if He never gave us anything else, God has already given us the greatest gift: His Son. Even though we were sinners and deserved to be separated from God, He sent Jesus into the world to die for our sins and rise again so we could live with God forever. Even if the Lord never gave us anything else, that alone deserves our thanks.

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 have we learned so far in Psalm 23 about how our relationship with the Lord is like a shepherd and his sheep?
2. Why do you think Psalm 23:5 lists these different things God has done for David? What do these things mean?
3. Is it easier to focus on the things you don't have, or be thankful about the things you do have? Do you tend to take the things God has given you for granted?
4. What are some things you can be thankful for? Why do you think it's important to give God thanks? What is the greatest thing God has done for us?

On the Field

- God has given you a body that is healthy enough to play soccer. You can thank God for that.
- Whether you win or lose, you can thank God for the chance to play soccer.
- Thank the Lord for giving you an opportunity to play soccer in a league where you can learn more about God's Word.
- Thank the Lord for the coaches and refs who have volunteered their time to make this league possible.

Off the Field

- Even the basic things you have, like food, water, clothes, and air are gifts from God. Thank Him for them.
- Think of all the nice things the Lord has given you and thank Him for them.
- Thank God for your friends and family.
- Most of all, thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross for your sins.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Psalm 23:4. Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Psalm 23:5 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Our natural human tendency is to complain when things don't go our way. When that happens, as a team, remind one another of all there is to be thankful for.