

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 4

One Body

One Body

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 lesson will look at how believers can use their different gifts to serve the Lord as part of the Body of Christ.

Scripture Passage:

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

Romans 12:4-8 (NIV; Memory Verse, Romans 12:5, **in bold**)

Coaches Guide

One of Paul's favorite metaphors for the Church is the image of a body. Just as a body is made up of many different parts that are uniquely created to serve a specific function, God has created every believer with different talents and abilities in order to fulfill an important purpose, and all of us are needed in order for the Body of Christ to work properly.

Here in Romans, Paul encourages the believers to use whatever gift they've been given to serve the Lord. We do something similar in team sports. We try to evaluate each player's strengths in order to determine what position they would be best at. Players with a strong shot usually play striker, or a good dribbler might be put in the midfield.

The same way, God has given each of us particular gifts that will help us serve the Lord. We should look at how He has gifted us and how we ought to use that gift. Those who have been blessed musically can use their gifts to lead worship. Believers who love meeting and getting to know people make great greeters. It is important for each of us to see how we've been gifted and consider how that gift could be used for the Lord. Then we need to go out and put our gifts to use for His glory.

Lastly, it is important to note two dangers when thinking about our gifts. The first is the danger of thinking that your gift is unimportant, and the second is thinking that your gift is more important than others. We need to remember that, like the parts of a body, every gift is necessary and should be used to bless the rest of the Body of Christ.

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. Why do you think Paul uses the image of a body as a picture of the Church? How is the Church like a body?
2. What are some of the jobs/roles that people perform within the Church (e.g. pastors, musicians, greeters, etc.)? What skills or gifts are necessary for these roles?
3. Are some gifts more important than others? What are the dangers if we think of ourselves as more or less important than someone else?
4. What are some of the ways that God has gifted you? How can you use your gifts and abilities in order to serve the Lord?

On the Field

- Each player has something to contribute to the team. Scoring, passing, dribbling, and defense are all important. Encourage your teammates in what they do well.
- When we are here, we should use not just our soccer gifts but our spiritual ones too. Think about how you can use your talents not only to help your team, but also to serve the Lord here at soccer.

Off the Field

- Think about your gifts, talents, and abilities. How can they be used to serve the Lord? Try to come up with ways that the things you are good at can be used to serve Him.
- Next time you are at church, try to look for people serving who you might not have noticed before. They could be ushers, cleaners, sound people, etc. Thank the Lord for these people and let them know that they are appreciated.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 12:16 (NIV), "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:5 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Every gift and ability that the Lord has given us can be used to serve Him. Brainstorm with the kids ways that God can use their specific talents. Show that we all have a part to play in the Body of Christ.