

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 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.

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 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**)

## In the Word

In the Scripture passage we just read, Paul compares God's people (the Church) to a body. Our bodies are made up of many different parts, and each part serves an important purpose. Our eyes let us see. We use our ears to hear. Our feet take us where we need to go. When each body part does its own job properly, the body works well. The same way, each member of the Church has talents and abilities. Some are gifted teachers. Others love to greet people. Your coaches are gifted with the ability to coach soccer and work with kids. When each member of the Church is doing what they were created to do, the Church is most effective.

Sometimes, people aren't happy with their gift. Maybe the person who teaches wishes they could play the guitar. But imagine if our bodies did that. What would happen if your eyes decided they were tired of seeing, and instead tried to hear? You wouldn't be able to see and you'd bump into all kinds of things! Other people might act like certain gifts are not as important. They might think that the pastor is more valuable to God than the person who vacuums. Imagine if your mouth decided that feet were not important. How would you get anywhere?

Another way to think of this is like a soccer team. The coach tries to see how each player is gifted and then puts them in a position where they can use their gifts to help the team. If someone is a good dribbler, they will probably be a midfielder. Someone who is quick and good with their hands might play goalie.

## In the Word (Continued)

Think about how God has gifted you. Then, once you figure out your gifting, think about how the Lord could use that gift. Maybe you are a great singer and one day God might use you to lead worship. Perhaps you love to be helpful and will be used to help set things up. Are you good at art? You can glorify God through your art. Remember that whatever your gift is, it's important to the Lord. Everyone has something to offer Him and no gift is too small. We should not be jealous of other people's gifts, nor should we treat others' gifts as less important than our own. Just like every member of this team has skills to contribute to the game, each of us has something unique to offer the Lord. The question is, how will you use your gift?

"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

- 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.

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, 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.