

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 4

Peace

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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 show the players how the peace of God can help our worries when we lift all of our problems to God in prayer.

Scripture Passage:

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

Coaches Guide

As with joy, it often seems like peace depends on our circumstances. Life is filled with both big and small problems that can cause us to worry. Yet here, Paul tells us not to worry, but to let the peace of God guard our hearts and minds. How do we do that? By prayer and supplication (prayer requests). When we pray, we admit that we are unable to solve the problem and instead trust God to take care of it. Prayer takes the issue out of our limited hands and places it in the capable hands of the all-powerful God of the universe.

There are two important details to note in verse 6. First, it says to pray “in everything.” There is no request too big for God to handle or too small for Him to care. We should pray for big problems (bullying, divorce, sickness) and small issues (lost things, homework). Second, Paul tells us to pray “with thanksgiving.” As we pray for the issues we currently face, we should be thanking God for how He has helped us in the past. Not only does this glorify the Lord, but it reminds us that He has taken care of us before and is able to handle our present needs.

When we lift up our problems with prayer and thanksgiving, Paul says that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds. That doesn't mean the issue will be solved instantly or that we will understand all that God is doing. Instead, that peace is knowing that God's Spirit is living in us and that He is able to take care of us no matter what situation we face.

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 solution does Paul offer for worry in Philippians 4:6-7?
2. How does prayer help us to have God's peace? Why does Paul say to pray "in everything"?
3. What does thanksgiving have to do with peace? Share a story of a time when God helped you through a problem. How does that help you trust God and have peace today?
4. What is the peace of God?

On the Field

- Think about the things you might worry about in a soccer game, such as your safety or how well you will play. Instead of worrying about them, take them to God in prayer.
- Think of some ways God has blessed your team already this season and give Him thanks for them. After the game, thank Him for ways He blesses you guys and answers your prayers.

Off the Field

- Life can be filled with all kinds of situations that make us worry. Our first response whenever we are worried is to pray to God and ask Him to take care of us and give us His peace.
- We should pray to God when we face big problems, like family emergencies or health problems, and small worries, like losing something.
- Remember how God has taken care of you in the past and thank Him for it as you pray for your current problems.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Philippians 4:4. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 4:6-7 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Take some time for prayer requests. Encourage the players to take their requests to God when they have worries. Then offer players an opportunity to thank God for ways He has helped them in the past.