

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 4

*Walk Humbly with Your God*

# Walk Humbly with Your God

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 teach the players that humility means recognizing that everything we have comes from God and giving Him, not ourselves, glory for the things we do.

## Scripture Passage:

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

James 4:10

## Coaches Guide

The third thing Micah 6:8 tells us to do is "walk humbly with your God." This means that in our relationship with God (our walk with the Lord), there should be an attitude of humility. James 4:10 shows us what that looks like. Humbling ourselves means understanding that everything we have (our gifts, talents, abilities) comes from Him, and giving Him the glory for everything we do. The opposite of humility is pride, which is seeking our own recognition and glory for our accomplishments. When we live in a way that gives God the glory, He will lift us up (reward us).

In sports, pride can be one of the biggest temptations we face. When we score a goal, make a save, or do something awesome, most of us want to be recognized. We want the attention to be on us and what we did. Certainly there is nothing wrong with celebrating, but as Christians we should recognize that all of our gifts and abilities come from God, and without Him we could do nothing. The Christian athlete plays with humility and wants God to be glorified in the way he or she plays.

Some people think that humility means talking bad about yourself. Such people tend to downplay, or even outright deny, the gifts that God has given them. This is called false humility and it still keeps the focus on you, often in an attempt to gain compliments. Real humility doesn't mean having a negative view of yourself, but having a right view of yourself and recognizing that every gift you have comes from the Lord. It doesn't deny your gifts and abilities, but uses them as reason to praise Him.

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 do you think it means to "walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)? How do we do that according to James 4:10?
2. What is humility? What is pride?
3. What are some examples of pride we might see in sports? How should we as believers play?
4. Does being humble mean constantly talking bad about yourself and denying that you're good at anything? What is the right way to view our gifts and talents?
5. How has God gifted you? How can you use that gift to give Him glory?

### On the Field

- If God has gifted you at soccer, thank Him for giving you that ability.
- If you make a great play, take the chance to praise God. It's not wrong to celebrate a great play, but it is wrong to take glory away from God and put it on ourselves by boasting.
- Being humble doesn't mean downplaying or denying the skills you have or criticizing yourself. Humility recognizes that God has gifted you and uses that as reason to praise Him.

### Off the Field

- God has given each of us talents and abilities. Whether you are good at sports, school, music, art, or anything else, praise and thank Him for it.
- Don't show off or brag about your accomplishments. Use them as an opportunity to give glory to God.
- When someone (especially a non-believer) recognizes your talents and compliments you, talk to them about the God who gave you that talent.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 4:10 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize giving God the glory in everything you do this week. That doesn't mean you can't recognize great accomplishments, but rather allow those compliments to lead to praise of the God who gives us our abilities.