

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 5

Forgiveness

Forgiveness

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 students to forgive others because God has forgiven us.

Scripture Passage:

“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.”

Colossians 3:13 (NIRV)

Note: Today's study will discuss a parable from Matthew 18:21-35, which is printed on the back of this packet.

Coaches Guide

In Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus tells the story of a servant who owed billions of dollars to his master, with no way to repay him. When he begged for mercy, his master forgave him. Then the servant went and found another servant, who owed him about \$10,000, and threw him into jail when he couldn't repay. The master heard about this and imprisoned the first servant instead for his actions.

The message here is clear. We all, like the servant in the story, owed God, our Master, a debt we could never repay because of our sins, and yet He forgave us at a cost far greater than billions of dollars: His own Son's life! Since God has forgiven us of so much, Colossians 3:13 tells us that we, as Christ's disciples, should put up with others (bear their mistakes with endurance) and show the same forgiveness that Christ has shown us.

In the parable, the unforgiving servant's issue was not that what his fellow servant owed him was small (\$10,000 is a lot of money!), but that it was nothing compared to how much his master forgave him. The same way, people may do things that really upset us, and they may never apologize, but no matter how much we're sinned against, Christ has forgiven us of so much more. As Christians, our forgiveness is based on what Christ has done for us (“forgive, just as the Lord forgave you”), not on whether or not the other person deserves forgiveness. When you're struggling to forgive, remember how Christ forgiven you, and then pray and ask Him to help you, and He will give you a forgiving heart.

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. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What do you think this story means? Who do the servants and the master represent?
2. What makes it difficult to forgive other people? Why, according to today's verse, should we as Christ's disciples forgive others?
3. Have you ever been in a situation where it was difficult to forgive someone? What did you do?
4. Have you ever been in a situation where you wronged someone else and needed to be forgiven? What happened?
5. What should we do when we are having a difficult time forgiving someone?

On the Field

- Did a player on the other team say or do something that upset you? Don't hold a grudge, but forgive them.
- Referees are human and make mistakes. Forgive them when you don't agree with the calls that they make.
- If you are fighting with a teammate, do what you can to make peace with them. Apologize for anything you may have done wrong, and forgive them for whatever they did to you.

Off the Field

- If your brother or sister does something that bothers you, don't try to get them back. Instead, forgive them for what they have done.
- Is there someone at school you don't get along with? Try to make things right and forgive them for anything they have done to you.
- Is there someone you are struggling to forgive? Remember how Jesus has forgiven you, and pray and ask Him to help you to forgive.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 20:28, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:13 (NIRV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Have the players think of someone they may need to forgive. If anyone on your team gets upset with a teammate, opponent, or anyone else today, encourage them to forgive that person.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

“Then Peter came to Him and said, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’

Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, “Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.” Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

‘But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, “Pay me what you owe!” So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.” And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, “You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?” And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.’”

Matthew 18:21-35