

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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.

In the Word

In Matthew 18:21-25, Jesus told the story of a servant who borrowed billions of dollars from his master. The servant had no way to pay him back, and the master could have had him thrown in jail, but instead, he forgave the servant of everything he owed. Later that day, the servant found his friend, who owed him \$10,000—still a lot of money, but not compared to what he owed his master. When his friend couldn't pay him back, the servant chose not to forgive him, and instead sent him to jail. But when his master found out, he was furious. That servant should have forgiven his friend, the way his master had forgiven him. Because of this wicked action, the master threw the unforgiving servant into prison.

This story shows us why we, as disciples of Jesus, should forgive. The master represents God, and the servant is us. We all have done something far worse than borrowing money we can't pay back. We've all sinned against God. Our sin deserves a punishment, and there was nothing we could do to make things right with Him. But rather than punish us, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to forgive us.

Because Jesus has forgiven us, Colossians 3:13 tells us that we should forgive other people when they do things that are wrong to us. All of us have been treated unkindly before. Maybe someone called you a mean name or did something that was hurtful. When that happens, Jesus tells us not to hold a grudge, be angry, or try to get even. Rather, we should forgive them, just like Jesus forgave us.

In the Word (Continued)

Sometimes it can be really difficult for us to forgive people. Maybe someone did something to you that was really wrong, or they never apologized for it, or they keep on doing things that hurt you. But no matter how much others sin against us, it will never be more than how much we've sinned against God. Jesus tells us to forgive, not because the other person deserves it, but because He has forgiven us of so much more. Christ's disciples are people who forgive everyone, because that's what Jesus did for us.

But even knowing how much Jesus has forgiven you, forgiveness can still be tough. When you are having a hard time forgiving someone, pray and ask the Lord for help. He can give you the strength to forgive those whom you struggle to forgive, the way that He has forgiven you.

"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

- 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.

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, 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