

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 5

Kind and Forgiving

Kind and Forgiving

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 lesson will show how a godly community is one where believers are kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.

Scripture Passage:

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. **And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**"

Ephesians 4:31-32 (memory verse, Ephesians 4:32, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

Ephesians 4:31-32 describe two different kinds of communities. Verse 31 is a community ruled by the old man. It is defined by bitterness (keeping hate in your heart against someone), wrath, anger, clamor (chaos and shouting), evil speaking, and malice (anger with the intent to hurt someone). This is what unbelieving communities tend to look like, and it leads to constant fighting and divisions.

Verse 32 describes the community of the new man. People in such a community are *kind* to each other. They look for ways to bless others rather than please themselves. They are also *tenderhearted*, meaning compassionate. They consider how other people feel and act in the best interest of others. Because each person looks out for others rather than themselves, everyone benefits from having the whole community caring for them. Finally, they *forgive* each other. People in this community don't let the mistakes or sins by others to stop them from being kind and compassionate, but rather they forgive and continue to show kindness.

We all want the community described in verse 32. The problem is that when we are wronged, our natural reaction is bitterness and anger. If we want to have an Ephesians 4:32 community, we need to continue to show kindness and forgive even when others wrong us. This is where the end of verse 32 becomes important. We may feel that the other person is not worthy of our forgiveness, but Jesus forgave us even though we are far less deserving of His forgiveness. If the sinless Jesus forgave us, surely we can forgive and be kind and tenderhearted to our fellow sinners.

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. Look at the list in verse 31 and go over what each of these things means. Would you want to live in a community like that?
2. What does it mean for a community to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving? Why is it better for everyone to look out for others than for each person to care for himself?
3. Why is it so hard for a community to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving? Have you ever had a hard time forgiving someone? What happened? Did you end up forgiving that person?
4. Why does Paul mention that "God in Christ forgave you"? Why is that important? How does it help us to be more forgiving?

On the Field

The old man wants to:

- Respond to teammates who do or say something that bothers me by yelling at them.
- Hold a grudge against any teammates who wrong to me.

Instead, the new man will:

- Show kindness to teammates who get on my nerves.
- Forgive teammates who are unkind to me.

Off the Field

The old man wants to:

- Respond in anger when my brother or sister annoys me.
- Make fun of hurt people whom I don't like.
- Hold hate in my heart.

Instead, the new man will:

- Forgive my siblings when they do something wrong to me.
- Show kindness to others, even those I don't get along with.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:29 (NIRV), "Don't let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:32 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize the community of your team this week. Before the game, make it your goal to be a team that is kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving. At the end of the game, evaluate how you have done.