

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 5

Patience

Patience

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 show the kids that patience is enduring in doing the right thing, even when it is difficult.

Scripture Passage:

“Brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord comes. See how the farmer waits for the land to produce its rich crop. See how patient the farmer is for the fall and spring rains.”

James 5:7 (NIRV)

In the Word

Today's fruit of the Spirit is patience, and like the others, patience is not easy. We all know how hard it is to be patient, whether we are looking forward to a fun party next week, waiting in line for something, or trying to keep from hitting an annoying sibling. Some people think that patience just means waiting a long time for something, but we know patience is more, since you can wait for something impatiently. The New King James Bible actually uses a different word for patience on its list of the fruit of the Spirit: longsuffering. This word is made up of two words most people don't like (long and suffering) that help us understand what patience is. It's suffering (enduring) for a long time in doing the right thing.

To help us understand this, James gives the example of a farmer. A farmer has to be patient as his crops grow, but he does not just sit in a chair and wait for the growth to happen. He works hard to prepare the ground, pick the weeds, water the seeds, and harvest before he can enjoy the delicious food he has grown. The same way, patience for us is not just about waiting. It is about working hard and doing the right thing, even when it is difficult, so that in the end we can receive a reward.

In soccer, we use the word endurance to talk about longsuffering. Endurance is when we continue to work hard and play even when we get

In the Word (Continued)

tired. When it's the end of the game and you're all worn out, you have a choice to make. You can continue to work hard and run for the ball to help your team, or you can be lazy and rest, which will hurt your team. The same way, longsuffering means continuing to work hard for God even when it is difficult.

As you can see, patience is far more than just waiting. It is doing the right thing for a long time, even if you suffer for it. That could mean waiting for something without complaining, or it could mean being kind to someone who is continually mean to you, sharing the Gospel with a friend who keeps saying no to Jesus, or doing your chores even when you are exhausted. Patience is difficult, but just like the farmer's patience is rewarded with tasty crops, God rewards our patience as well.

"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

- There may be a player on the other team who is constantly pushing you or talking trash. Show patience by continuing to play fairly and not responding back with shoves or insults.
- Teammates, coaches, and refs will all make mistakes. You can be patient with them and not criticize them when they mess up.
- Continue to work hard and do your best, even at the end of the game when you're exhausted.

Off the Field

- Most of us know someone who gets under our skin and makes us want to respond with anger. Patience means continuing to do what is good and right, no matter what others do to you.
- It's not easy being a Christian and keeping God's commands all the time. It takes patience to do what's right and endure, even in the face of temptations and difficult circumstances.

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, Philippians 4:7. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 5:7 (NIRV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Whether it comes through a person or a circumstance, difficulties will come both on and off the soccer field. Emphasize with your team that patience means continuing to do the right thing even when those difficult situations occur.