

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 5

Pride

Pride

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 warn the kids about the dangers of pride and show them what biblical humility looks like.

Scripture Passage:

"Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 16:18

Coaches Guide

Just as we saw the risks of lacking self-control last week, today we are going to talk about the dangers of pride. Pride means thinking of or speaking about yourself more highly than you ought to, or as better than others. In sports, we often see pride on display when players show off, gloat, or try to put down the other team.

Proverbs 16:18 warns that pride leads to serious consequences. An arrogant attitude might cost you friends. You could be embarrassed if you boast that you are better than others at something and are then proven wrong. You could even get hurt if you think you can handle something that's actually too difficult and dangerous for you. Our verse tells us that failure, pain, and destruction are the inevitable results of pride.

The biblical answer to pride is humility, or putting God and others above yourself. Everything you have comes from God. If you are smart, athletic, artistic, or musical, it is because God made you that way. The truth is that God is far greater than any of us, and so it only make sense that we should live for His glory, not brag about our own glory.

Now God has created each of us in His image. That's true of you, and that's true of others. None of us are better than anyone else, and so we shouldn't think, talk, or act like we are. Rather, the Bible tells us to treat others as better than ourselves. That doesn't mean we go around hating or bashing ourselves. The point is not to have a low view of yourself, but a high view of others, and to treat them the way you want to be treated.

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 is pride? What does our verse say pride leads to?
2. Why is pride dangerous? Have you ever faced negative consequences for being prideful (losing friends, getting embarrassed, failure, injury, etc.)?
3. Does anyone here struggle with pride when you play sports? What are some examples of pride we might see in sports?
4. What is the opposite of pride? How can we be humble before God? How do we treat others with humility?
5. Does being humble mean bashing or having a low view of ourselves?

On the Field

- If you play well today, don't use it as an opportunity to boast or show off. Thank Him for giving you the skills to play and let Him have all the glory.
- There is nothing wrong with getting excited when your team wins, but it turns into pride when you are boastful toward the other team. Celebrate positively, not negatively.
- Not only is it prideful when you act like you're better than your teammates and hog the ball, it can also hurt the team. Be a team player.

Off the Field

- Boasting puts attention on you when it should be on the Lord. Live your life to bring glory to Him, not yourself.
- Don't act like you're better than others and think that you deserve for people to treat you better. Instead, think of others ahead of yourself and look for ways you can bless them.
- Humility doesn't mean thinking badly about yourself, but taking the focus off of you and putting it on God. Spend some time finding out how great He is in His Word, then worship Him!

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 25:28 (NIRV), "A person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken through." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Proverbs 16:18 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Just as we said last week with self-control, pride can be a particular struggle for many in sports. You can play hard and play well without being prideful, and giving God the glory when you play sports is an awesome way to worship Him.