

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 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.

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 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

## In the Word

Have you ever played soccer with someone who always talks about how they are better than you, or keeps showing off, or never passes you the ball because they think they're the best? It probably wasn't much fun. All of these are examples of what the Bible calls pride.

Pride is when someone thinks, talks, and acts like they are better than everyone else. The Bible tells us that pride is a sin, and in our memory verse we see that pride and a haughty spirit (a prideful attitude) can get you into trouble. Whether you get embarrassed because you brag that you're the best at something only to find out that someone is better than you, or you try to show off by doing something that too difficult or dangerous for you and get hurt, pride has serious consequences.

Instead of being prideful, the Bible teaches us to be humble, which means considering and treating God and others better than yourself. God is so much greater and more powerful than us, so it's silly to boast about how great we think that we are. When you brag about being athletic, smart, artistic, or musical, you are forgetting that God is the one who gave you those gifts in the first place. Instead of using our talents to make everyone look at us and see how great we are, we should thank God for giving us such great gifts and use them to bring glory to Him. For example, when someone congratulates you for scoring a goal or getting a good grade on a test, don't use it as an opportunity to praise yourself. Instead, give all the credit to God and thank Him for the blessing.

## In the Word (Continued)

When it comes to others, it's important to remember that God loves them and made them special, just like He loves and made you. None of us are better than anyone else, and so we shouldn't think, talk, or act like we are. In fact, the Bible says that we should treat others as better than ourselves. Instead of acting like you deserve everything you want and expecting people to serve you, think about what others might want and do what you can to bless them. Let your friend have the last slice of pizza. Hang out with the kid that doesn't have many friends. Play the game your brother or sister wants to play, even if it's not your favorite. Pass the ball to your teammate instead of keeping it for yourself all the time. In short, treat others the way you want them to treat you. Imagine what the world would be like if everyone treated others this way!

"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

- 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!

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, 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.