

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 5

Sincere Love

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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 that Christian love means loving the Lord zealously and loving others sincerely and above ourselves.

Scripture Passage:

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”

Romans 12:9-11, NIV (Memory Verse, Romans 12:9-10, **in bold**)

Coaches Guide

We live in a world that doesn't know what love is. Some think that love is unconditional acceptance of anything, including sin. Others can only see love in romance. But the Bible teaches us that love is so much more than these worldly ideas. Jesus said in Mark 12:30-31 that the two greatest commandments in the Bible are to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. Simply put, we are to love God and love other people. In today's verses, Paul lays out what love for God and love for others look like practically.

Loving God means hating evil (sin) and clinging to good. We can't say we love God and yet do the things He hates. We need to reject the sin in our lives and instead replace it with things that please the Lord. Both hating sin and doing good are necessary if we want to love God. Another way to love the Lord is by serving Him zealously. Loving God is not something you can do half-heartedly. We should love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In other words, love Him with all we have.

Our love for others must be sincere, or as the NKJV says, without hypocrisy. We can't claim to love someone with our words, yet act in a way that's unloving. Our words must match our actions. And what should those actions be like? We should love others to such an extent that we treat them better than we treat ourselves. Jesus perfectly exemplified how we are to love God and love others in the way He lived on earth. If you want to know how to love, then follow His example.

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. How do you think most people in our world today would define love? How does that compare to what the Bible teaches about love?
2. Who does the Bible tell us to love (see Mark 12:30-31)? What does Romans 12:9-11 say about how to love God? What does it say about how to love others?
3. Who is the ultimate example of love? How did Jesus show His love for God and others? How can you follow His example?
4. Based on today's verses, how well do you love God and others? What are some ways you can improve?

On the Field

- Love your teammates sincerely. Don't just tell them that you care about them, but actively look for ways that you can treat them better than yourself.
- In soccer, hating evil means rejecting pride, selfishness, and mistreatment of teammates and opponents. Instead, cling to good things. Give God the glory, treat others as better than yourself, and be kind and encouraging to the other players.

Off the Field

- Think about a sin you struggle with. Rather than just trying not to do that thing (hating evil), think of a good thing to replace it with. For example, if you struggle with saying unkind things, try looking for ways to use your words to encourage.
- Choose someone in your life who is difficult to love. Plan a way you can treat them better than you treat yourself this week.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 12:5 (NIV), "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:9-10 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. According to Mark 12:30-31, the Christian life can be summed up in four words: love God, love people. The key ideas we want to convey to the kids today are what biblical love for God and what biblical love for others look like.