

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 5

The Duty of All Mankind

The Duty of All Mankind

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 players that we can only find lasting joy and satisfaction in life by following and obeying Christ.

Scripture Passage:

"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind."

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV)

In the Word

What's the most important thing in life? What can make you truly happy? A long time ago, a king named Solomon tried to answer these questions. He looked all over the world in search of happiness and wrote what he found in a book called Ecclesiastes. Today's memory verse is the answer he discovered in the end.

Solomon looked in many different places for happiness. He tried working hard to make as much money as he could. He bought lots of stuff and did whatever things he wanted to do. He searched for wisdom and tried to be the smartest man on earth. While these things made him happy for a little while, none of them brought him lasting joy. At the end of his search, he could find only one thing that truly made him happy. In Ecclesiastes 12:13, he wrote that the duty of all mankind is to fear God and keep His commandments. In other words, all people we created to obey and follow the Lord. We will only find happiness when we live our lives for Him.

Solomon is not the only one who's tried to find joy in life. Everyone wants to be happy. The problem is, most people look for happiness in all the wrong places. Some think that if they have the most money or the coolest stuff, they will be happy, but money runs out and stuff breaks and gets old. Other people try to find happiness by being popular, but you can lose popularity just as easily as you find it. Still others think that being the best soccer player, the smartest student, or the best artist or musician

In the Word (Continued)

will make them happy, but no matter how good you get, someone will always be better. The truth is that only by living for the Lord will we find joy in life, because that's what we were designed for. Trying to find joy by anything else is like trying to water a plant with lava. Plants were made to receive life from water, just like we were made to find joy in Christ.

So what's most important to you? Your family? Friends? Soccer? Toys? These are all good things, but without Jesus, they can never truly give you joy. You were created to find joy in following the Lord. Only by living for Him and making Him the most important thing in your life will you ever truly be happy. When Jesus is first in your life, you can enjoy everything else the way God designed you to enjoy them as good gifts from Him. So let's make God #1 in all of our lives.

"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

- Obeying Jesus should be more important than winning. That doesn't mean that winning isn't important or that you shouldn't try to win, but that you don't sacrifice obedience to Christ in order to do that.
- Take devotion time seriously. Soccer is great, but learning about the Lord is far more important.

Off the Field

- Enjoy the things God gave you, but remember to thank God for them and not let them come between you and the Lord.
- Friends are great, but if you have a friend that keeps you from following Jesus or tempts you to sin, it's best to end that friendship.
- Popularity can be a huge temptation, but it's more important to do what the Lord says, even if that makes you unpopular.

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, James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. The focus today is on making following and obeying God our #1 priority in everything we do. We will take the next two weeks to look at what "fear God" and "keep His commandments" mean.