

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 5

Whatever is Lovely

Whatever is Lovely

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 present Jesus as the ultimate example of love that should cause us to love others.

Scripture Passage:

"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

1 John 3:16

In the Word

Next on our list is whatever is lovely. Now when you hear the word "lovely," you might be imagining your grandma using it to describe how lovely the weather is or how lovely your outfit looks, but that's not what Paul was thinking about here. When he said to think about things that are lovely, he meant things that are full of love. Today, we are going to look at the greatest example of love ever, Jesus.

In 1 John 3:16, John tells us that Jesus shows us what love is in just seven words: He (Jesus) laid down His life for us. When Jesus died on the cross, taking the punishment for sin that we deserved, He showed us what love truly is. In Jesus' example, we see that love is active, selfless, and undeserved. Jesus didn't just say that He loved us, He showed it with His actions. He didn't love us only when it was easy or helped Himself. He saved us knowing it would cost Him His own life. And He didn't die for us because we were such good people or were worthy of it. The Bible says that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners.

The second part of our verse tells us that since Jesus has shown such great love to us, we should show that same love to others by laying down our lives for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Now that usually doesn't mean we will have to die for someone else like Jesus did, but in love we should treat other people, and especially our fellow Christians, better than ourselves. That means not just saying that you love them, but showing it with your actions. It means doing things to bless others even if

In the Word (Continued)

it's difficult or costs you something. And it means loving not only those who treat you right or deserve it, but even those who don't love you in return.

Loving others in this way is not easy, so whenever you are having a hard time loving someone, just think of Jesus' example and how He did it all for you. When you feel like you are giving up a lot to love someone, remember that Jesus gave up His own life for you. If people are not loving you back, think about how Jesus died for you while you were still a sinner. When the person you're trying to love continues to sin against you, remember that Jesus still loves us no matter how many times we sin. If Jesus was able to love us in such incredible ways, it's only right that we show love to others.

"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

- Love is putting other people's needs and desires above your own. If someone else wants to play the same position as you, give them a chance.
- Your opponents are still your brothers and sisters in Christ. Play hard, but still show them love and kindness.
- Even if a teammate or opponent is unloving to you, you must still show love to them and forgive them.

Off the Field

- Do you have friends and family you really care about? Don't just say you love them, do something to show them your love.
- Is there someone who is always unkind to you? Try showing love to them and see if things change.
- Jesus shows us incredible love in forgiving us even when we sin. If He could forgive us, we should be able to forgive others even when they sin against us.

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, Psalm 51:10 (NIV), "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 John 3:16 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Just as on a team players must put the team's needs before their own, so we as believers must put our brothers and sisters' needs before our own. Emphasize putting others before yourself today.