

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 6

Compassion

Compassion

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 teach the players how we as believers come alongside others in both joy and pain to show compassion.

Scripture Passage:

“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

1 Corinthians 12:26

Coaches Guide

Today's verse looks at the idea of compassion in the Body of Christ. In a body, pain in one part affects the rest of the body. If your stomach is sick, your legs might be tired, your throat could be sore, and your head may feel nauseous. On the other hand, when one part feels good, the whole body benefits. Sticking your feet in cold water on a hot day cools down and refreshes everything.

The Body of Christ works the same way. When another believer is suffering, we shouldn't be indifferent. That brother or sister is part of the same Body of Christ as us, so their pain is our pain too. We should come alongside them, grieve with them, and show them compassion. That doesn't mean throwing a pity-party, but offering biblical comfort and helping them if you can. On the other hand, when something good happens to someone else, our response should not be jealousy. We should celebrate with our fellow Christians as if that good thing happened to us.

In sports and in life, the temptation can be to think about ourselves and no one else. If someone else scores a goal, you might be jealous that it wasn't you. After a win or loss, you don't want to think about how the other team feels. If someone is going through a hard time, it's easier to ignore them and be glad it's not you than to join in their pain and comfort them. But part of godly character is realizing that you're not the only one who matters. You can be excited or disappointed about what happens to you or your team and still rejoice or be compassionate to others.

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 did you feel after our last game? Excited? Disappointed? Why? [After answers are given, note to the team that it probably had to do with how they and the team played.]
2. What does 1 Corinthians 12:26 say about our bodies? How does that apply to the Body of Christ?
3. Is it more natural for us to think about others and how they feel, or is it easier to always think about ourselves? What can make it difficult to rejoice with others or show compassion?
4. What are some ways we can rejoice with or show compassion to others?

On the Field

- It's okay to celebrate a win or be disappointed if we lose, but remember the other team. Be respectful of them and congratulate them on a game well-played.
- When your teammate scores a goal, don't be upset that it wasn't you who scored. Celebrate with them.
- Look out for other players who might have had a tough week and need some compassion and comfort.

Off the Field

- Do you have a friend going through a hard time? Spend some time with them and try to comfort them.
- When something good happens to someone else, we may be tempted to get jealous. Instead, be excited for them.
- In all situations, consider others' feelings, not just your own.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:29. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 Corinthians 12:26 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Learning how to win and lose graciously is important. Whatever the outcome, teach your team to consider others, not just themselves.