

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 6

Enduring with Prayer

Enduring with Prayer

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 look at Romans 12:12-14 as a model for how Christians should deal with hard times.

Scripture Passage:

"[Be] rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**"

Romans 12:12-14 (Memory Verse, Romans 12:14, **in bold**)

Coaches Guide

The Christian life is difficult. As believers, we face life's hardships, temptation, and sometimes even persecution. Romans 12:12-14 gives us some guidelines as to how to respond to these challenges.

In verse 12, we see that both rejoicing in hope and being patient in tribulation are key to dealing with life's difficulties. When we face trials, we need to be patient and wait on the Lord. Rather than rushing to make our own plan of how to handle a situation, we should wait and see what God is going to do. As we wait, we rejoice in the hope we have in Christ. This hope includes both the present hope of God's deliverance from or through the situation and our ultimate hope, the hope of our salvation.

Verse 14 tells us to bless those who persecute us. Our natural reaction when others wrong us is to get even or fight back, but Paul here urges us to bless our persecutors. When others mistreat us, we respond with love and kindness and do what's right. This not only prevents the situation from getting worse, but also presents a good testimony to unbelievers and might bring your persecutor to the Lord.

The final key to enduring trials in these verses is continuing steadfastly in prayer. Paul uses the words "continue" and "steadfastly" to show that we are not just supposed to pray once and hope for the best. When we need something from our heavenly Father, we are commanded to ask and then keep asking until He delivers us from or brings us through the situation. If we want to see God work, we must be persistent prayers.

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. What does it mean to rejoice in hope and be patient in tribulation? How do they go together? What hope do we have to rejoice in?
2. Is it easy to "bless those who curse you"? What do you naturally want to do when someone is unkind to you? Why should you bless others instead?
3. What does it mean to "continue steadfastly in prayer"? How much should we pray when life gets tough?
4. Share a time when you faced a trial in your life and either did or did not handle it the way Romans 12:12-14 teach us. How did the situation turn out? Have some players share their experiences as well.

On the Field

- Prayers don't have to be long. When you get discouraged or frustrated in today's game, pray a quick prayer asking God to help you through that situation.
- If other players are making fun of you or trash-talking, don't fight back. Instead, respond with encouragement and blessing.
- If things don't go your way this game, exercise patience. Know that God has much greater things in store for His children than winning a soccer game.

Off the Field

- What is the greatest problem or challenge in your life right now? Pray for it continually. Commit to praying every day until the Lord answers your prayer.
- If there are people in your life who regularly mistreat you, think of ways you can bless them this week.
- The hope we rejoice in comes from the promises in God's Word. Study the Bible to learn what those promises are.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 12:9-10 (NIV), "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." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:14 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. This would be a good week to take prayer requests and spend a little extra time praying for the needs of your players.