

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 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.

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 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**)

## In the Word

Have you ever had a really bad day? What happened? How did you feel? What did you do about it? All people experience hard times in life, and that includes followers of Jesus. In fact, the Bible tells us that being a Christian is really difficult. As believers, we face temptation to sin, the hardships of life, and sometimes even persecution, which is when people mistreating you for being a Christian. Here in Romans 12:12-14, Paul tells us how we as Christians should respond when life gets tough.

Verse 12 tells us to rejoice in hope and be patient in tribulation. Jesus gives us the hope we need to face times of difficulty. We know that He is mighty and can rescue us from any bad situation. But whether or not God brings us out of our difficulty, as believers we know that, no matter what, in the end we will be with Him in heaven. And as we hope and trust in God, we should be patient in tribulation (which just means hard times) and watch to see what God will do. Instead of worrying or trying to figure out our own plan, we wait on God, trust in Him, and seek His will.

Verse 14 says to bless those who persecute us. Sometimes, people will dislike us simply because we are Christians, and that may even lead them to do things that are unkind. They might make fun of you, try to hurt you, or stop being your friend. When people treat us this way, we tend to want to fight back, but here Paul says to respond with blessing (love and kindness), not cursing. This is what Jesus taught on the Sermon on the Mount. When others mistreat us for our faith, our response should always

## In the Word (Continued)

be to bless them by treating them the way that God wants us to treat them. Not only does this prevent the situation from getting worse, but it also is a good testimony to non-Christians that could lead them to Christ.

Perhaps the most important key to dealing with tough times according to this passage is to continue steadfastly in prayer. The words “continue” and “steadfastly” mean that we don’t just pray once and then hope for the best. Instead, when we have a problem, we should keep going to our heavenly Father and ask Him to help us. Even when it doesn’t feel like prayer is working, we must keep relying on prayer. The Bible is filled with examples of God taking care of His people because they continued to pray. If we want to see God work in our situation, let’s pray, pray, pray, and keep praying!

“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

- 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.
- God’s Word tells us all about the hope that we have in Jesus. Read the Bible to find out more about that hope and all the promises God gives 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, 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.