

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 6

*Fear God*

# Fear God

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 kids what the fear of the Lord is by giving them a right view of God, who hates sin but loves and forgives us and wants our obedience.

## Scripture Passage:

**“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”**

Proverbs 1:7

## Coaches Guide

Last week, we studied Ecclesiastes 12:13 and saw how Solomon's search for joy and satisfaction in life led him to the conclusion that man's duty is to fear God and keep His commandments. Today, we will look at the first of these two duties and learn what the fear of the Lord is.

The fear of the Lord is an important idea in the Bible, and Proverbs 1:7 says it's the key to true knowledge, but the idea of fearing God might seem kind of strange. However, this fear isn't like the fear of the dark or spiders. The fear of God is a holy, reverential fear that recognizes God's holiness and might, and responds in worship and obedience, motivated not by terror or dread of God, but love for Him.

Often, people go to one of two extremes in their fear of God. Some people have an unhealthy fear of the Lord and view Him as an angry God. They live in constant terror that He is mad at them, ready to punish them for their next mistake, and when they sin, they run from Him. Others lack fear of God altogether and believe they can live any way they want. They may think that because God is loving and forgiving, it doesn't matter if they sin, or they might not even care what God thinks of their actions.

Both of these beliefs are based on a wrong idea of who God is and what it means to fear Him. Therefore, it's important to view God rightly in order to have a healthy fear of the Lord. We must recognize that He is holy, hates sin, and deserves our obedience, but also that He is loving, and He forgives us when we repent and turn to Him.

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. In our study last week, how did Solomon try to find satisfaction in life? In the end, what two things (duties) did he learn that people must do?
2. What does the phrase, "the fear of the Lord," mean? Why is fearing the Lord important, according to our memory verse?
3. Are you ever afraid that God is angry at you because of your sin and wants to punish you? Or do you ever feel like you don't care what God thinks and that you should be able to live how you want? What is wrong with these two views of who God is?
4. What does it look like to fear the Lord? Why is it important to have a right view of who God is?

## On the Field

- When you fear the Lord, you know that your actions matter. God tells us to treat our coaches, teammates, refs, and opponents with kindness and respect, and so it's important to do that.
- Part of fearing the Lord includes obeying and honoring the coaches God has put in authority over you.
- Everyone sins, and you may show bad sportsmanship at times. When you make a mistake, turn to God for forgiveness rather than run away in fear.

## Off the Field

- When you are tempted to sin and think that no one will know about it, fearing God means doing the right thing because you know it pleases and honors the Lord.
- When you sin, you don't have to run away from God thinking He is angry with you. Instead, you should run to Him in repentance.
- Fearing the Lord means not taking sin lightly. You should fight against sin because God hates sin and because you love Him and want to please Him.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV), "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." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Proverbs 1:7 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Fear of the Lord can be a difficult concept for kids, but you can focus on is making sure they have a right understanding of who God is—that He does deserve our honor and obedience, but also loves and forgives us.