

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 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.

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 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

## In the Word

Last week we learned about King Solomon, a man who looked for happiness in many places and discovered that joy could only be found when we fear God and keep His commandments. Next week we'll see how to keep God's commandments, but today we want to focus on what it means to fear God.

"But wait," you might be thinking, "isn't fear a bad thing? Why should I fear God?" The Bible tells us many times to fear the Lord, but the kind of fear it's talking about is different than being afraid of the dark or spiders. This kind of fear is holy fear. Fearing God means remembering that He is greater, more holy, more perfect than we can possibly imagine and responding with worship, respect, and obedience.

It's important to have this kind of fear of God because sometimes we forget how great and holy God is, and that leads to sin. We might think that because God is loving and forgiving, it doesn't matter what we do. God will just forgive us anyway. Other people don't even care what God thinks, and they believe they can live however they want. When we live in this way, it means we have forgotten how great God is and aren't fearing Him. Instead, we must fear God, recognizing that He is holy, our actions do matter, and we need to live in a way that pleases Him.

What fear of the Lord doesn't mean is that we need to be scared of Him. Some people think that God is mean and angry, and that He gets mad at us whenever we sin. They think that fearing God means doing what's

## In the Word (Continued)

right because we are afraid of Him punishing us for doing the wrong thing. While it's true that God is holy and perfect and He does hate sin, He is also our loving and forgiving Father who wants us to go to Him when we sin, not run away from Him. Yes, we should do our best to fight against sin and do the things He tells us, but not because we're scared of Him, but because we love Him.

Our memory verse today says that having this right fear of the Lord—believing that He is great and needs to be respected and obeyed, not because we're afraid but because we love Him—leads to knowledge. Do you want to be wise? Fear God. Remember how great and powerful and holy He is, worship and obey Him, and know that He loves you and has forgiven all your sins!

“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

- 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.

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, 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 praise and obedience, but also loves and forgives us.