

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 6

Fear of Man

Fear of Man

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 look at the dangers of the fear of man, and encourage the kids to trust the Lord instead.

Scripture Passage:

**“The fear of man brings a snare,
But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.”**

Proverbs 29:25

Coaches Guide

We all have different fears, but one of the most common fears today is fear of what other people think of us. Sometimes, we dress, talk, or even act differently just so that we can please others. The Bible refers to this as the “fear of man,” and Proverbs 29:25 warns us about this fear.

Today's verse says that the fear of man is a snare (trap). When you change your behavior because you are worried about what people think of you, it could lead to sin. For example, you could be peer-pressured into joining in when others are doing something wrong because you think you'll look cool, or start using the bad language your friends use in order to fit in, or show off and be prideful in order to impress someone. When you live with the fear of man, in the end, you discover two things: first, the approval of others can never really satisfy you, and second, disobeying God to please men is not worth it in the end.

Our verse tells us that the answer to the fear of man is trusting the Lord by doing what is right, regardless of what other people think. Going against the crowd is hard. It takes courage to say no to your friends when they are doing something you know is wrong, or stand up for someone who is getting picked on, or risk getting made fun of because you choose to follow the Lord. But we need to remember that what God thinks about us is more important than what man thinks, and trust that God's Word is true, that He knows what's best for us, and that if we obey Him, even if it's difficult, we won't be disappointed.

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 are some of your fears? Do you ever worry about what others think of you?
2. What is "the fear of man"? Why does our verse call it a "snare" (trap)? What are the dangers of worrying about what others think of you?
3. Have you ever said or done something you knew was wrong in order to fit in or make others think you're cool? What happened? Did it make you feel good? Were there consequences?
4. What is the solution to fear of man? How does trusting in the Lord help us to overcome fear of man?

On the Field

- You may be tempted to be a show-off with your soccer skills in order to impress others, but as we learned last week, God gave you those skills to bring Him glory, not yourself.
- If your teammates are doing something you know is wrong, don't join in so you can look cool. Stand up to them and do what's right, even if you are alone.

Off the Field

- It can be hard to admit that you're a Christian when you're around unbelievers. Be bold with your faith, no matter what others think.
- Don't sin just to fit in with those around you. Obey God's Word, even if it makes you unpopular.
- When you see people bullying or making fun of someone, don't join them. Stand up for that person.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Proverbs 29:25 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. For most kids, the primary source of "fear of man" comes from what their peers think of them. Encourage them to think carefully about what kind of friends they've chosen. Do they pressure you to sin in order to fit in? If so, you may need to choose new friends.