

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

What are some things you are afraid of? Spiders? Heights? The dark? One fear you might not even know you have is what the Bible calls the fear of man. Have you ever dressed, talked, or acted a certain way because you were worried about what those around you might think? That's an example of the fear of man. The fear of man is when you care more about what other people think of you than what God thinks.

Proverbs 29:25 warns us that the fear of man is a trap (snare). It makes you do things you know are wrong in order to fit in. For example, maybe the kids on the playground are all making fun of someone, and you think about joining in so that you can be popular. Or maybe your friend is playing a video game you aren't allowed to play, but you want to play so that your friend will like you. In these situations, you're tempted to think that as long as people like you and think that you're cool, popular, or funny, it doesn't matter what you have to do. But disobeying God's Word always has consequences.

Like all sin, the fear of man makes a lot of promises that it can't keep. It tells you that if others like you, you will be happy. But the more approval you get from others, the more you want, and then as soon as you do something that other people don't like, that approval is gone and you are left empty again. Fear of man also tells you that what others think of you matters more than what God thinks, and that doing bad things to be popular is worth it, but this is simply not true. Not only does disobeying

In the Word (Continued)

God's Word have consequences here on earth, but the Lord also controls eternity. Following Him leads to true, everlasting joy, something that no human being can offer, but rejecting God leads to eternal consequences.

Instead of fearing man, today's verse tells us to trust the Lord. What He thinks of us matters way more than what others think, and so we need to obey His Word and do what's right, no matter what people say. Now it's not always easy to stand up and follow God when those around you are doing what's wrong. You may even be the only one who's doing the right thing. When that happens, we need to trust that God cares about us, that He knows what's best, and that if we obey Him, even if it's difficult, He will take care of us. We need to reject the fear of man, trust the Lord, and do what's right, no matter what.

"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

- 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.

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, 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.