

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 6

Kindness and Goodness

Kindness and Goodness

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 encourage the players to show kindness and goodness to those who are unkind to them, with Christ as our example.

Scripture Passage:

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. **And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**”

Ephesians 4:31-32 (Memory verse, Ephesians 4:32, **in bold**)

In the Word

Today we are going to look at two fruits of the Spirit: kindness and goodness. These two words talk about how we are to treat others. Most of us know what kindness, goodness and unkindness look like. Who can give an example? (Have them answer.) When we treat others with kindness and goodness, we are treating them well and doing what is good and right in the eyes of the Lord.

It's easy to be kind to someone when they are being kind to you, but kindness isn't just about treating people well when we think they deserve it. Ephesians 4:31 lists all the ways we normally want to respond when someone doesn't treat us right. When someone is mean to us, we usually get angry and want to say or do unkind things to them, but the Bible tells us that this is not how a Christian responds.

Instead, Ephesians 4:32 tells us to be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to others. Rather than returning the unkindness of others with more unkindness, we should forgive those who are mean, show them compassion, and treat them with kindness. It's important to notice the connection between being kind and forgiving one another. If we have not forgiven someone who is mean to us, we cannot truly be kind to them. We may act kind on the outside, but in our hearts we will still be mad at them

In the Word (Continued)

for what they did. Only when we forgive the other person who was unkind to us can we truly be kind to them. We may have to forgive them even if they have not apologized, but that's what it takes to be kind.

Just like many of the other fruits of the Spirit, forgiving others and being kind to them when they were unkind to us is difficult. This is where the last part of Ephesians 4:32 comes in. We are kind and forgive others because that is what Jesus did for us. He showed kindness and forgave the sins of all mankind, even the ones who hung him on the cross. We all have sinned against Jesus, yet our unkindness did not stop Jesus from being kind to us. He forgave us even when we were living in sin against Him and had not apologized. Since Jesus has shown us such great kindness, we also ought to be good and kind to others.

"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

- Don't joke around and make fun of teammates or opponents. Instead, use your words to encourage.
- If a teammate, opponent, coach, or ref has been unkind to you, forgive that person and treat them with kindness.
- Kind soccer acts can include helping up a fallen player, giving teammates a chance to have the ball, or comforting a player who is upset.

Off the Field

- Most of us know someone who is regularly unkind to us. This week, try to forgive that person even if they don't apologize to you for their unkindness.
- Look for opportunities to show kindness this week. Use kind words to encourage others and kind actions to help others.
- Share the message of how the Lord showed us kindness and forgave us to someone who does not know Jesus.

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, James 5:7 (NIRV). Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:32 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Take note of acts of kindness your players show before, during, and after the game. Talk to your team after the game and point out to everyone the things you saw.