

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 6

*Prayer*

# Prayer

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 show how Jesus tells us to go to God in prayer with our needs and look at the different ways God answers prayer.

## Scripture Passage:

**“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.** For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?... If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” - Luke 11:9-13 (Memory verse, Luke 11:9, in **bold**)

## Coaches Guide

One of the privileges we have as disciples of Jesus Christ is prayer. Jesus gives us access to the God of the Universe, and as His children we can go to Him with all our needs. Yet so often, we neglect this incredible gift the Lord has given us. In Luke 11:9-13, Jesus encourages us to use prayer to go to our heavenly Father with all our needs.

One reason we often don't go to God in prayer is because we doubt that prayer will work or that God will give us what we want. But in this passage, Jesus reminds us that God is a good, loving Father who cares deeply for us, His children. Even our imperfect earthly parents know how to give their children what they need. God is the perfect Father, and so we can trust that He will take care of us.

Now prayer does not mean that we go to God and ask Him for things, and He gives us whatever we want. God may grant our requests, or He may say no, or we may have to wait to see our prayers answered. But no matter how He responds, we know that God's answers are always best. He knows what we need better than we do, and we can trust that what He gives us will always be even greater than what we asked for.

Our verse tells us to ask, seek, and knock. These are not one-time actions. We are to go to God continually in prayer. When you pray and God doesn't answer right away, keep on praying. The Lord wants us to be persistent in prayer and continue to go to our loving heavenly Father for everything we need, trusting Him to provide for us.

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 is prayer? How often do you go to God in prayer? What keeps you from praying more?
2. Does God always give us what we pray for, as soon as we pray for it? Why not? Why do you think God sometimes answers our prayers with "no" or "wait"?
3. What should we do when God doesn't answer our prayers right away?
4. Can you think of a time when God answered one of your prayers? What did you pray for? What did God do? Did He answer in the way you expected or hoped?
5. Take prayer requests and pray together as a team.

## On the Field

- At soccer, we can pray for God to protect everyone and keep both teams free from injuries, and to help everyone do their best. It's also important to pray for God to help you honor Him in all you say and do on the soccer field.
- Pray for your teammates and coaches during the week. Ask them if there are ways you can be praying for them.
- Pray a prayer of thanks to the Lord for allowing everyone to play soccer in this league.

## Off the Field

- Have you been praying for God to do something for a long time? Keep praying! Don't give up!
- Prayer isn't just about asking God for things. Thank Him for prayers He has answered in the past, and for all the good things He has done for you.
- Pray for any friends, family members, or neighbors who aren't saved to come to know Jesus as their Savior.
- Ask the Lord to help you to follow Him and be more like Jesus.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Colossians 3:13 (NIRV), "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Luke 11:9 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. For your prayer time, consider assigning kids to pray for one of their teammates. You don't have to force players to pray if they don't feel comfortable praying out loud in front of people.