

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 6

*Walking in Wisdom*

# Walking in Wisdom

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 lesson will encourage the team to make wise choices that please the Lord on how they spend their time.

## Scripture Passage:

"See then that you walk circumspectly (carefully), not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. **Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**"

Ephesians 5:15-17 (memory verse, Ephesians 5:17, in **bold**)

## Coaches Guide

Ephesians 5:15 talks about walking circumspectly. The phrase "walking circumspectly" means being wise, careful, and alert to danger. Specifically in this passage, Paul wants us to be wise about how we use our time and be alert to the dangers and temptations of misusing it.

There are many different ways we can spend our time. We can use it for evil by sinning. We can use it for good by reading the Bible, praying, and sharing the Gospel with others. But we can also spend our time in ways that are neither evil nor good, such as video games, the internet, TV, music, sports, using our phones, or other activities. Paul tells us in verse 16 that we need to redeem our time, which means make the best use of our time in order to please the Lord.

Today's memory verse invites us to evaluate how we use our time. We don't want to be unwise, but rather we should understand the Lord's will. How does He want us to spend our time? That means cutting out sinful uses of our time, but also making sure that we prioritize giving our time to God over other things. That doesn't mean things like sports, games, and friends are bad or that we can't spend any time on them, but there will always be a temptation to waste time, or to spend so much time on these other things that we don't have enough time to do the things that God wants. The Lord must be the priority, and if these other things take away time that should be given to Him, that's wrong. Each of us should look at how we spend our time and make sure that we are living wisely, understanding God's will.

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 does it mean to "redeem the time"? What are some examples of ways we can use our time for evil? What about for good?
2. Are there ways we can spend time that are neither good nor evil? What do these verses have to say about spending our time on these things?
3. What does Paul mean by "understand what the will of the Lord is"? What would it look like to use your time the way the Lord wants?
4. How do you spend your time? How much time do you spend on sports? Video games? TV? Your phone? The Bible? Prayer? Would you say you spend your time well? What are some ways you could spend your time more wisely?

## On the Field

The old man wants to:

- Joke around and distract others during devotion time.
- Use my time on the field to bring myself glory and on the bench to complain.

Instead, the new man will:

- Listen and participate during devotions.
- Play the game to glorify Jesus and encourage others while I'm on the bench.

## Off the Field

The old man wants to:

- Spend all my time on my phone, video games, movies, and TV, and none on reading my Bible and praying.
- Skip church and hang out at home instead.

Instead, the new man will:

- Spend time every day in God's Word and prayer.
- Look for as many opportunities as possible to spend time with believers and share the Gospel.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 5:17 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Ask the kids if they have a daily time when they pray and read the Bible. If not, encourage them to start. Challenge them to read one chapter of the book of John each day for the next 3 weeks, or suggest another book of the Bible for them to read, and to spend time in prayer.