

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 6

Kind and Forgiving

Kind and Forgiving

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 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**)

In the Word

Imagine that you are on a path in the woods late at night. Would you run without looking where you were going, or try to walk with your eyes closed? No, if you're wise, you would walk on that path carefully. You would be on the lookout for dangers, for things that might trip you up, and before you take the next step, you would make sure your path was clear. In Ephesians 5:15-17, this is how Paul says that Christians should live their lives: carefully, wisely, looking out for and avoiding danger.

But what kind of danger is Paul warning us about here? Not the kinds of danger we face while walking in the woods. No, Paul is telling us to be careful and wise about how we spend our time. In verse 16, he tells us to redeem the time, which means to spend our time wisely, in the way that God would want.

Every day, we face many choices of how to use our time. We can spend it on good things that bring us closer to God, like praying, reading the Bible, going to Church, or telling others about Jesus. Doing good things, like obeying our parents and helping others, are also great uses of our time. On the other hand, we can spend our time in ways that displease God when we sin. But there are also ways to use our time that are neither good nor evil, such as TV, video games, or sports. If we want to be wise, we need to decide to use our time in a way that pleases the Lord. In order to do that, verse 17 says we need to understand what the will of the Lord is (what God wants us to do).

In the Word (Continued)

We all know that God doesn't want you to use your time on sinful things. It also should be clear that it is always good to spend your time on things that bring you closer to the Lord. But what about those other things? There is certainly nothing wrong with things like video games or sports by themselves. God gives us these fun activities for our enjoyment. However, when they become a distraction to us or keep us from doing the good things that bring us closer to the Lord, then they become a problem. For example, if you use so much time watching TV that you never spend any time in prayer, or if you don't do what your parents asked because you spent all your time playing video games, that's wrong. God gives us fun activities for our enjoyment, but let's make sure first that we're spending time with Him and doing the things we're supposed to do.

"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

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 video games, movies, and TV, and none on reading my Bible or praying.
- Skip church and play at home instead.

Instead, the new man will:

- Spend time every day in God's Word and prayer with my family.
- Look for as many opportunities as possible to spend time with believers and talk about 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, 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 time where they regularly read the Bible and pray with their families (most are too young to do this on their own). If not, encourage them to start one. Keep in mind that not all of the players come from believing families.