

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 7

*Born Again*

# Born Again

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 teach the students what it means to be born again and offer the students a chance to become Christ's disciples.

## Scripture Passage:

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

John 3:3

## Coaches Guide

This season, we have looked at Christ's invitation to follow Him and be His disciples, and we have seen what it means to be a disciple. That leaves all of us with a decision to make: will you be a disciple of Jesus?

In John 3:3, Jesus was talking to a man named Nicodemus and told him that if he wanted to be a part of God's kingdom (another way to talk about being His disciple), he must be born again. When Nicodemus heard this, he was very confused, as perhaps you are too. Did this mean he needed to enter his mother's womb a second time? But Jesus was not referring to a physical birth, but a spiritual one. Just as all of our lives began with our birth, being born again is the beginning of our new life of following Jesus and being His disciple.

We need this new birth because all of us are born into this world with a problem: sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God. Sin separates us from God, and the ultimate punishment for sin is death. We can't pay for sin on our own, so God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. He died on the cross to pay the punishment for sin, even though He never sinned, and then He rose again on the third day, defeating death.

If you want to be born again and become a disciple of Jesus Christ, all you have to do is admit that you are a sinner, believe that He died on the cross and rose again for your sins, and ask Him to forgive your sins and be your Lord (King) and Savior. When you do that, you join God's family and will spend eternity with Jesus in heaven.

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 have we learned so far this season about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? How do you become a disciple?
2. What does it mean to be "born again"? Why do we need to be born again?
3. What did Jesus do to save us from our sins? What do we need to do to be forgiven of our sins and receive eternal life?
4. Share the story of how you came to know Jesus as your Savior. Tell the players how God has changed your life.
5. Would you like to make the decision be born again and become a disciple of Jesus?

## On the Field

- Soccer can be a great place to share the message of Christ with others. Look for opportunity to tell others about what the Lord has done for you.
- Being born again means that you don't live the way you used to live before you knew Jesus. Play soccer in a way that honors God and obey His commandments, whether you are on or off the field.

## Off the Field

- The most important decision you can make is to be born again and become a disciple of Jesus Christ. If you have never made that choice before, you can do so today.
- The news of what Jesus has done for us is the greatest message in the world, and it needs to be shared with everyone. If you have friends or family members who aren't Christians, share the Good News of Jesus with them.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Luke 11:9, "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." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize John 3:3 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Our main goal week is to present the Gospel and give the students a chance to respond. On the back of this packet is a simple prayer you can pray with anyone who wants to put their faith in Christ today.

If any of the kids on your team want to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, you can have them repeat this prayer after you.

## The Sinner's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for being my loving Creator. I know that I have sinned and disobeyed You. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the dead to save me. Please forgive my sins and be my Lord and Savior. I want to be Your disciple and follow You all the days of my life. Thank You for welcoming me into Your family. I love You!

In Jesus' Name I pray, amen.