

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 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.

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 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

## In the Word

All season, we've been learning about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We've learned that disciples are people who give up everything to follow Jesus, and we've seen how they love, serve, forgive, and pray. Now you have a decision to make: will you be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Long ago, there was a man named Nicodemus who was interested in following Jesus. Jesus told him that if he wanted to be a disciple and enter God's kingdom, he needed to be born again. When Nicodemus heard this, he was very confused. What does it mean to be born again? Did he need to go back inside his mom's tummy and be born a second time? No, this second birth that Jesus spoke about is not like our first birth. It is a spiritual birth, the start of our new life with God.

We need to be born again because, when we are born for the first time, all of us have a problem called sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God. We all have sinned, and the Bible says that the punishment for sin is death, which means separation from God forever. To be free from sin and death, we need a new life, one that is free from sin. In other words, we need to be born again. But we can't get this new life on our own. We need God to give us this life and save us from our sin.

This is why God sent His Son Jesus into the world. Jesus was born as a human, just like us, but He never sinned. He lived a perfect life, yet He was put to death as a criminal, paying the punishment for sin that we deserved. Then on the third day, He rose again from the grave, defeating

## In the Word (Continued)

death for us so that we could live with Him in Heaven forever. Now anyone who believes in Him can be born again and receive this new, spiritual, eternal life with God.

If you want to be born again and become Jesus' disciple, you can make that decision today. All you have to do is admit that you are a sinner, believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again to defeat sin and death, and ask Him to forgive your sins and be your Lord (King) and Savior. When you do that, God forgives your sins and brings you into His family.

Being born again is the start of your new life, the best life anyone could have. You can now spend the rest of your days on earth learning from, following, and becoming more like your Savior Jesus until you get to heaven, where you will live with Him forever!

"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

- 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.

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, 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.