

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 7

*Compassion*

# Compassion

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 teach the players about what compassion is and encourage them to practice it.

## Scripture Passage:

**“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”**

Romans 12:15

## Coaches Guide

Romans 12:15 presents us with an easy command to remember, yet a difficult one to do. In this verse, Paul calls us to have compassion. He tells us to come alongside those who are feeling joy or sorrow and rejoice or weep with them, regardless of how we feel personally.

What makes compassion so difficult is that it forces us to stop focusing on how we feel and makes us consider the feelings of others. We are naturally selfish. When you're sad, you want everyone around you to be miserable with you. When you're happy, you don't want those with you to bring you down the good mood. Compassion means getting past how we are feeling and instead considering the well-being of others.

When we are in the same situation as someone, it is easy to mourn or weep with them. No one struggles to celebrate with teammates after a win. It is natural to weep with your family when you all have lost someone you love. But when someone gets something that you wanted, do you celebrate their gain with them? When you are enjoying yourself, do you stop to consider and commiserate with a person who is struggling?

The first step to compassion is to look at and consider others. This may seem obvious, but it is difficult to care about how others feel when we are consumed with ourselves. Once you identify someone who needs compassion, spend time with them. Celebrate or mourn with them. Ask them how they feel. Encourage them and offer prayer. Compassion is not just feeling the same thing as someone else, but coming alongside and supporting others in their time of need.

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. Was there ever a time when you were sad and someone encouraged you, or when you felt happy and another person came and celebrated with you? How did you feel?
2. What is compassion? Do you find it difficult to rejoice with others who are happy, or to show sympathy when others are sad? Why? What makes compassion difficult?
3. In order to show compassion, where does our focus need to be? How does being compassionate make us less self-centered?
4. Is compassion just a feeling, or is it accompanied by actions? What are ways that we can actively show compassion to others?

## On the Field

- It's easy to celebrate personal accomplishments, but instead of celebrating when you score or make a save today, rejoice with your teammates when they play well.
- If you win, have compassion on the other team and encourage them. Don't boast or taunt them. If you lose, celebrate the other team's accomplishments. Don't forget that they care about the game too.

## Off the Field

- Try to notice people who are going through difficult times in their lives. They might be at school, in your neighborhood, on this team, or even in your own family. Talk to them, have compassion on them, and give them some encouragement.
- Jealousy can make it hard to rejoice with others sometimes. Be sure to celebrate the good things that happen to your friends and family, even if you don't benefit personally.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 12:14, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:15 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Encourage your team today to think about how others feel, not just how they feel. Be on the lookout for people who might need encouragement. Win or lose, show grace and encouragement to the other team.