

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

Today's verse is simple to understand, but much harder to put into action. Paul calls us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. In other words, instead of always caring only about how we feel, we should try to see how others are feeling and join with them in both their joy and their sadness. This is called compassion. According to Paul, we show compassion when we celebrate (rejoice) with those who are experiencing joy and cry (weep) with those who are sad.

One of the hardest parts of compassion is that it forces us to think about other people, not just ourselves. As we go throughout our days, we spend a lot of time thinking about how we feel. If you're hungry, you ask for something to eat. If you feel sad, you ask for someone or something to comfort you. When you get angry, you want to show it. However, being compassionate requires us to focus on how other people are feeling, not ourselves. We can't be selfish and compassionate at the same time.

There are times when rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep is easy. When you win a game, no one has to tell you to celebrate with your teammates. But sometimes it's hard to have compassion. Is it easy to be happy for the other team when they beat you, or do you become jealous? When you are playing on a playground or at recess and you see someone crying, do you continue to enjoy your game, or do you go over and see what's wrong? In these situations, compassion can be quite difficult.

In the Word (Continued)

Our verse today tells us that compassion is an important part of the Christian life. But showing compassion is more than just feeling happy or sorry for someone. We have to put it into action. So how do we show compassion? It might seem obvious, but the first step is to look around you and think about how others are feeling. You won't notice the sad person beside you if you're too focused on your own joy. We need to think about others, not just ourselves. Next, when you see someone who is happy or sad, talk to them. Ask them how they are feeling. Offer to pray for them. Finally, do what you can to help. If someone is sad, give some encouragement. If they are happy, celebrate with them. Treat them the way that you would want to be treated in their situation. Compassion is a great way for we as Christians to love one another.

"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

- 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.

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, 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.