

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 7

Humility

Humility

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 players to think of and treat others as more important than themselves.

Scripture Passage:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Philippians 2:3-4, NIV (Memory Verse, Philippians 2:3, in **bold**)

In the Word

Imagine if everyone on our team thought that they were the best and only cared about themselves. Nobody passed the ball or helped their teammates. Everyone was selfish and didn't care about each other. Is that the sort of team you would want to be on? Of course not! This kind of attitude is called pride, and it's how the old man acts. Paul warns us about pride in Philippians 2:3-4 and tells us instead to be humble.

Today's verses use some difficult words. Verse 3 warns us not to do anything in "selfish ambition" or "vain conceit," which means thinking you're better than other people and doing what you can to get ahead of others. Instead, Paul tells us to have humility, which is thinking of others as more important than ourselves. Then in verse 4, Paul says that we should look out not just for our own interests (the things we want or need), but also the interests of others. In other words, we can't always just try to do and get what we want. We should look for ways to bless the people around us and put their needs and desires before our own.

Notice how these verses deal with both our thoughts and our actions. Both are important. If we believe in our hearts that we're better than others, it will be hard to put their needs before our own. But when we have humble hearts that think of others before ourselves, we will naturally want to serve and bless people.

At first, this might sound miserable. Who wants to be helping others all the time and taking care of their needs without first looking out for

In the Word (Continued)

ourselves? The old man certainly wouldn't. But think about what would happen if everyone in your school, at home, or on your team acted this way. What if everyone looked out for others? You wouldn't need to worry about taking care of your own wants or needs, because everyone else would already be looking out for you. That sounds pretty great!

Still, sometimes that won't happen. Sometimes, you treat others as better than yourself, but they don't treat you the same way. Do we still have to be humble and put others before ourselves then? Yes, because that's exactly what Jesus did for us. Philippians 2:5-11 (written on the next page) shows how Jesus was humble and treated us as better than Himself when He came to earth and died on the cross for us. If He did that for us, we should be able to treat others the same way.

"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:

- Put my desires to be in the game ahead of my teammates' desire to play.
- Hog the ball and take all the shots in order to make myself look great.

Instead, the new man will:

- Share the ball with my teammates and play to help them have a good time.
- Make God's glory, not my own, the goal of my play.

Off the Field

The old man wants to:

- Make sure I get what I want before thinking of others.
- Put down other kids so that I will look and feel good.

Instead, the new man will:

- Remember that others might want what I want and give them the first chance to get it.
- Think of others and their needs as more important than me and my needs.

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 5:17, "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 2:3 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Sports can be a place where pride is a great temptation. Emphasize with your team the importance of giving God the glory and thinking about others before ourselves on the field. Look for ways to practice humility today.

Philippians 2:3-11 (NIV)

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.