

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 7

Keep His Commandments

Keep His Commandments

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 kids that we keep God's commandments by loving Him with all we are and loving others as ourselves.

Scripture Passage:

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:30-31 (players should memorize the **bold** portions)

Coaches Guide

A few weeks ago, we learned in Ecclesiastes 12:13 that the duty of all mankind is to fear God and keep His commandments. Today, we are focusing on the second of these instructions, keeping His commandments.

The Bible is filled with all kinds of commands from God. In fact, the Old Testament law alone gave over 600 commandments for the Israelites to follow. In Mark 12, a man approached Jesus and asked Him which of these commandments was the most important one. Today's memory verse is Jesus' answer: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. These can be summarized as loving God and loving other people. What Jesus was not saying here was that we only have to obey these two commandments, and the others don't matter. Rather, when we are truly loving God and loving others, we will naturally be keeping the rest of God's law.

Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength means that we must give all that we are to loving, following, and obeying Him. He doesn't just want part of our lives, part of our love, part of our loyalty. He must be the most important person in our lives. Loving our neighbor as ourselves means treating others the way we would want them to treat us, and loving not just when it's convenient or easy, but when it requires us to sacrifice or when the other person doesn't deserve it. When we love God and love others, we will find ourselves keeping all the rest of God's commandments too.

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 are some things the Bible commands us to do? Which commandments are the most important one to follow?
2. Why do you think Jesus said that loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving our neighbor as ourselves are the two most important commandments? Does that mean the rest aren't important?
3. What does it mean to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Is there anything or anyone in your life that's more important to you than God?
4. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

On the Field

- There may be players on your team or the other team that you don't get along with. Treat them the way you want to be treated, even if they don't treat you the same way.
- You want and expect the other team to play fairly, so you should play fairly.
- Before you speak to an opponent or the referee, think about what you're going to say. Is this something you would want them to say to you?

Off the Field

- Check yourself for anything or anyone that you are giving more of your heart, soul, mind, and strength to than God.
- What is something you wish other people would do for you? Do that for someone else this week.
- Loving your neighbor includes not just your friends, but those you don't get along with. Look for ways to show love to someone difficult this week.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Mark 12:30-31 with your team (players only need to learn the parts in bold on the previous page). Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Both of the commandments we looked at today have to do with love. If time permits, talk about what love really means according to the Bible.