

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

10-17's

## Sports Devos

Week 7

*Love Your Neighbor as Yourself*

# Love Your Neighbor

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** To show the players that if we want to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we need to love others as we love ourselves.

## Scripture Passage: Mark 12:28-31

"And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, 'Which commandment is the most important of all?' Jesus answered, 'The most important is, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." **The second is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** There is no other commandment greater than these.'" (Memory Verse, Mark 12:31, in bold)

## Coaches Guide

All year, we have looked at what Jesus said was the most important thing a person can do: love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Today, we will look at the next most important commandment, loving our neighbor as ourselves. According to Jesus, we can sum up everything the Bible says about how we are supposed to live in these two commandments.

The Bible talks about loving others many times, but only here does Jesus set this standard for love. When we think about how much we love ourselves, that is a pretty high standard. We are usually willing to do a lot to make ourselves comfortable and happy. Think about how often you try to work things to get your own way or make sure that your interests and needs are met. Now imagine being that aggressive to make sure others are taken care of.

It's important to show that these two commands are connected. You can't have one without the other. Someone who does not love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength has no capacity to love their neighbors as themselves. Likewise, anyone who doesn't love their neighbor is by default not loving God either.

If we are serious about wanting to honor and please God, it will show in our love for others. Jesus said the world will know that we are His disciples by the love we have for one another. Loving our neighbor is central to what it means to be a Christian.

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 have you learned so far this year about loving the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? What does that look like in your everyday life?
2. Why do you think Jesus says the second most important commandment is to love your neighbor? What does it mean to love them as we love ourselves?
3. What are some settings or scenarios in your life where it is hard to love your neighbor? How can you love those people as you love yourself?
4. Why do you think Jesus put these two commands together?

## On the Field

- It is easy to be selfish when you play soccer by looking out for yourself, making sure you get to play the position and playing time that you want. Be willing to allow your teammates to have what they want. Consider their interests above your own.
- Be sure to treat your coaches, teammates, refs, and opponents the way you want them to treat you: with love, respect, kindness, and care. Look for opportunities to love others today.

## Off the Field

- Life gives us many situations where it can be easy to look out for ourselves and what we want. Rather than trying to get what you want this week, look for ways to bless others.
- Look out for classmates, friends, neighbors, and family members who may be in special need of love this week. Perhaps it is someone who is lonely, sad, or going through something difficult. Plan a way to show them love.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Colossians 3:23. Anyone who can recite it to you will get a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Learn and memorize Mark 12:31 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. This week we will have a special emphasis on the way we treat others. Brainstorm with your players way to love teammates, coaches, refs, and opponents and put those into practice.