

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4-9'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.

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 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)

In the Word

All season, we have been looking at what Jesus said was the most important thing anyone could do. Does anyone remember what that is? (Have them recite Mark 12:30). As we see in Mark 12:28-31, after telling us the most important thing a person can do, Jesus moves on to the next most important thing, and that is loving our neighbor as ourselves. If we want to love God the way we should, that means we are to treat others with love.

First of all, it is important to know what the Bible means when it says neighbor. Jesus is not just talking about the people who live on your street. Your neighbor can be anyone and everyone you come into contact with. Your friends, classmates, teammates, and even family count as neighbors. When Jesus said to love our neighbors, He meant that we should love everybody.

The Bible tells us many times to love others. What makes Mark 12:31 different is that Jesus said to love our neighbor the way we love ourselves. Loving people is one thing, but loving them to that standard is another matter entirely. Think about the things you are willing to do for yourself. If you are hungry or thirsty, you will go to the kitchen to get a snack or drink. If you have money, you spend it on things that you like. When there is a line for something, you make sure that you are first. We are always looking out for our own interests. When Jesus asks us to love others as we love ourselves, this is the standard to which He puts us.

In the Word (Continued)

We all can love others when it's easy. When there are two snacks or two toys, we are more than willing to share. But if there is only one, will we let someone else have it? Are we willing to give up our own wants, needs, and desires for the sake of others? That's what loving your neighbor as yourself is all about. When it's hard to love others, that's when our love is put to the test to see whether or not it is true.

While Mark 12:30-31 is given as two separate commands, they are really connected. We can't love our neighbor unless we first love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We are not truly loving the Lord unless we are loving our neighbor as ourselves. If we want to live lives that please the Lord, we need to obey these two commands.

"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 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.

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, 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.