

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 7

The Fear of the Lord

The Fear of the Lord

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 study will teach the students what true, biblical fear of the Lord is.

Scripture Passage:

**"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction."**

Proverbs 1:7

In the Word

Last time, we talked about something that the Bible calls "the fear of man," which is when you are worried about what other people think of you. We learned that the fear of man can be dangerous and lead us to do things we know are wrong. But the Bible has a cure for fear of man. It is what Proverbs 1:7 calls, "the fear of the Lord."

Normally when we hear the word "fear," we think of it as a bad thing, but today's verse says that the fear of the Lord leads to knowledge. It's a good kind of fear. It doesn't mean being scared of God. Instead, this fear is a love and respect for God. It's a fear that recognizes that God is the greatest, most powerful Being in the Universe who deserves our respect and obedience, yet at the same time knows that our awesome Creator deeply loves and cares for us, and so we should want to love Him back. And we show God this fear, love, respect, and obedience that He deserves by doing the things He says in His Word.

Proverbs 1:7 tells us that fearing the Lord and obeying His Word leads to knowledge. But the verse also warns that there will be people who do not fear the Lord or listen to His wisdom. Such people don't believe that God deserves our respect, or that what He says matters. They think that they can live any way they want, with no consequences for their actions. But Scripture says living this way is foolish. The truth is that, not only does God deserve our obedience and respect, but also His commands are for our good, and ignoring God's Word always hurts us in the end.

In the Word (Continued)

There are also people who have the wrong kind of fear of the Lord. They are scared of God because they view Him as mean and angry, just waiting to punish them the moment they do something wrong. Now this is not actually the fear of the Lord; it's the fear of punishment. The truth is that God is not like that. He's our caring, merciful Heavenly Father who loves us, and He forgives us when we sin if we repent and turn to Him.

So what do you believe about God? Do you think that He's big, mean, and scary? Are God and His Word not that important to you? Or do you know the truth that the Bible teaches, that He is great and powerful, but also kind, loving, and forgiving? He does want us to obey Him and deserves our respect, but His commands are not meant to be a burden, but a blessing for our good. What a wonderful Heavenly Father we have!

"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

- Fearing the Lord means recognizing that God cares about how we live, speak, and act, not just at church, but on the soccer field as well.
- Play soccer not to make yourself look good or impress others, but to please the Lord.
- All season, we've been learning in devotion time about ways to obey God while playing soccer (using our words wisely, having self-control, being humble). Fearing the Lord means putting these things into practice.

Off the Field

- Living for the Lord can't just be one of many important things in our life. It must be our number one priority.
- When you fear the Lord, things like prayer, reading the Bible, and going to church become things you want to do because you love the Lord, not just things you have to do.
- You can show that you fear the Lord by doing what's right, even when it's difficult.

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, Proverbs 29:25, "The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Proverbs 1:7 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Today's lesson is less about practical application and more about the way the kids view God. Explore how the kids feel about God as we lead up to next week, when we will present the Gospel to the kids.