

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 8

An Eternal Choice

An Eternal Choice

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 present the Gospel to the kids and offer them a chance to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

Scripture Passage:

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

In the Word

All season, we've been looking at different ways that God wants us to live our lives. In Micah 6:8, we saw that the Lord wants us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. In Ecclesiastes 12:13, God tells us to fear Him and keep His commandments. Hopefully, you've been trying to do these things both on and off the soccer field.

It's important for us to live the way God wants because our verse today tells us that one day, God will judge the way each of us lived our lives and say whether the things we did were good or evil. But when you try to do the right thing, you quickly find out that obeying God all the time is hard, and many times we fail to obey God's commands. When we disobey God, that's called sin, and the Bible says that the punishment for sin is death and separation from God forever. That's pretty bad news!

But there's good news. God didn't want to be separated from you and me forever, and so He sent His Son Jesus to save us from our sin. Jesus came into the world as a baby, both completely God and completely human. He lived a perfect life and never sinned once. He never lied, never stole, never disobeyed His parents, never broke one of God's rules. But even though He never sinned, some people were jealous of Him and wanted to get rid of Him. They punished Him like a criminal, even though He never did anything wrong, and He died on the cross. In doing that, He took the punishment of death that we deserved for our sins, taking our place on the cross.

In the Word (Continued)

Then, on the third day Jesus rose from the dead. Death couldn't beat Him! Now He's alive, and He invites us to live with Him forever. All you have to do is ask Him to forgive your sins, believe that He died for you on the cross and rose again, and make Him your Lord (King) and Savior.

As your coaches this year, we are here because we want to teach you about soccer, but there's actually a more important reason we're here. We are people who have had Jesus come into our lives and forgive our sins, and we want all of you players to know how wonderful it is to trust in Jesus and know Him as your King, Savior, and Friend. (Feel free here to share part of your testimony, if you would like.) If you've never asked Jesus to be your Savior, you have an opportunity to do that today. Talk to your coach if you would like to make this choice.

"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

- None of us will be perfect at doing what's right and honoring the Lord when we play soccer, but we should all seek to glorify Him and turn to Him when we mess up.
- There may be people at the soccer field who do not know the good news of what Jesus has done. Look for opportunities to share the Gospel with them.

Off the Field

- Nothing in life is more important than trusting in Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you haven't done that before, do it today.
- The news of what Jesus has done is too good to keep to yourself. Share it with everyone you know.

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, Mark 12:30-31, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength' ... And... 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. This is the last week, so there is no verse to learn for next week.
3. The main goal today is to give a clear Gospel presentation and give the kids a chance to respond. Let Chris know of anyone who accepts Jesus as their Savior today.