

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 8

Christ the Head

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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 present the Gospel by showing the kids their need to be connected to Jesus, the Head of the Body of Christ.

Scripture Passage:

"And He [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:18

Coaches Guide

This season we have been talking about the Body of Christ and seen how just as different parts come together to form one body, all of us as believers are different, but we all come together to form the Church. In Colossians 1:18, we read that Jesus is the Head of this Body.

The head is what controls the rest of the body, and all the other parts must be connected to the head in order to have life. The same way, when it says Christ is the Head of the Body, it means that He is the most important part, the Ruler over the Church, and the One we must all be connected to in order to have eternal life.

So how can we be connected to Jesus? First, we must understand that we are separated from God by our sins. God is holy and perfect, but we are not, and because of our sin, we deserve punishment. That punishment is eternal separation from God, but God does not want to be separated from us forever. That's why He sent Jesus. Though He never sinned, Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sins by dying on the cross. Then He rose again, defeating death for us. Now, if you ask Him to be your Lord and Savior, He will forgive your sins. You will have Christ as your "Head" and be reconnected to God, allowing you to enjoy eternity with Him forever. Asking Him to be Lord and Savior means that He is the Ruler of your life, that you live for Him and not yourself anymore. That might sound like a big commitment, but remember that He is a good, kind, and loving King who wants what's best for us.

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.

Team Discussion

1. Review what it means that we make up the Body of Christ. If we are all different parts of that Body, who is the Head?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Head of the Body of Christ?
3. Why do we need to be "connected" to Christ? What separates us from Him? How can we be "re-connected"?
4. Share the story of how you came to know the Lord. Present the Gospel and offer a chance for the players to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

"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

- If Jesus is our Head, that means He rules our lives. We should play soccer in a way that brings honor to Him, rather than playing only to please ourselves.
- Some teammates, opponents, or people watching the game might not be Christians. We should always be looking for chances to share about Jesus, even at the soccer field.

Off the Field

- The most important thing any of us could ever do is ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. If you haven't done that before, do it today.
- It's important not just for you, but everyone you know to make Jesus their Head. Tell a friend, neighbor, or family member about Him.
- If Jesus is our Head, obeying Him should be more important to us than doing the things that we want.

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, Luke 6:31. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Since this is the last week, there is no memory verse.
3. The most important thing we want to do this week is present the Gospel and offer the players a chance to make Jesus their Lord and Savior.