

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 8

Depart from Evil

Depart from Evil

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 use Proverbs 3:5-7 to present the Gospel and give the players an opportunity to respond.

Scripture Passage:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil.”

Proverbs 3:5-7

Coaches Guide

At the beginning of the season, we learned about two different ways we can live our lives in Proverbs 3:5-6. You can either live your own way by leaning on your own understanding and fearing man, or you can live God's way by trusting in and fearing the Him. The Bible tells us that the first of these paths leads to separation from God forever, while the second leads to eternal life with Him.

Everyone is on one of these two paths, and most people, regardless of their religion or beliefs, think that they are on the right one. They believe that they are a good person, that they know what is right and wrong. But Proverbs 3:7 calls this being “wise in your own eyes,” or thinking that you know what's best. On the contrary, the Bible teaches us that we are all born sinners, with hearts, minds, and desires for what is wrong. That's why today's verse tells us to depart from evil.

But notice the verse doesn't say, “Depart from evil and do good.” That's because our sin deserves the punishment of death and separation from God forever, and no amount of good deeds can overcome this problem. Instead, we are told to fear the Lord, to trust in His solution for sin. That solution is His Son, Jesus Christ, who was born a man, lived a sinless life, died to pay the punishment for our sin, and then rose again to defeat death. Now, if we turn to Him and ask Him to forgive our sins and be our Lord and Savior, we will be on the path of trusting in the Lord, and in the end, we will live with Him forever.

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. At the start of the season, what two ways did we say you could live your life according to Proverbs 3:5-6? Which path are you on?
2. Are you a "good person"? Why or why not? What makes someone a "good person"? Biblically speaking, can anyone be a good person? What problem does every person face because of sin?
3. Can we fix the problem with good deeds? What is God's solution for that problem? How can you receive forgiveness from sin and eternal life? What does it mean to "fear the Lord and depart from evil"?
4. Tell the team the story of how you made your decision to put your faith in Jesus Christ. Invite anyone who hasn't before to do the same.

On the Field

- None of us will perfectly live for the Lord when we play soccer. But when you do sin, ask the Lord for forgiveness and turn to Him, and He will forgive you.
- Is there a sin you struggle with when you play soccer? Depart from that sin and turn to the Lord instead.

Off the Field

- The most important thing you can do with your life is to turn from your sin and ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. If you have never made that decision before, do it today!
- The message that Jesus can forgive us from sin and give us eternal life is such good news that everyone needs to know. Tell any unsaved friends, family, or neighbors about who Jesus is, what He has done in your life, and how He can be their Savior too!

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Proverbs 3:7 with your team.
3. The main point of this week is to present the Gospel and give the kids an opportunity to respond. Let Chris know if anyone prays to ask Jesus to be their Savior on your team.