

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 8

Overcome Evil with Good

Overcome Evil with Good

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 lesson will show the players the proper response to those who do wrong to them.

Scripture Passage:

"Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. Therefore 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:17-21

Coaches Guide

Today's study will look at how we should respond to those who do us wrong. In this passage, one thing is clear: as believers, we must never respond to evil with more evil. When someone mistreats us, as humans our natural reaction is to seek revenge, but Paul counsels us to respond with good. That doesn't mean that we give up on getting justice (receiving a fair outcome). Rather, instead of taking justice into our own hands ("avenge yourselves," vs. 19), we trust the Lord to make things right.

Verse 18 tells us to make sure that we are not the cause of any hate or division. In this world, conflict is unavoidable. People may hate you for being a Christian or mistreat you because they just don't like you, and you can't always control or prevent that. But Paul wants us to be sure that we aren't the ones causing the problem ("*as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men*"). If we're mistreating or antagonizing others, we can't be surprised or act innocent when people get upset with us and respond unkindly.

But Paul doesn't tell us just to avoid causing problems ourselves. He says that we should actively try to make peace. Notice verse 21 doesn't tell us simply to ignore evil done to us. It says to respond to evil with good. Paul gives the example of feeding an enemy who is hungry or thirsty. Not only is doing good pleasing to God and the right thing to do, but it's actually the cure for evil. When others show us unkindness, we are to respond with love. So encourage the person who insults you. Pray for those who hate your faith. Look for ways to show love to those who mistreat you. That's how you overcome evil with good.

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. What is your first reaction when others mistreat you? What does the Bible say we should do instead when we are treated unfairly? Is it up to us to make sure we are treated fairly?
2. What does Paul mean when he says, "As much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men"? How can we avoid being the cause of conflict?
3. What does it mean to overcome evil with good? When someone mistreats you, how does doing good fix the situation?
4. Share about a time when you were mistreated. How did you respond? Was your response biblical? Did your response make things better or worse? What did you learn?

On the Field

- Show kindness to a player, ref, or coach with whom you have conflict. Encourage them, pray for them, or do whatever else you think might bless them.
- Do your best to live at peace with the other team. Don't do things that would antagonize or anger them, but rather treat them with respect.
- Even if the game seems unfair, that's not an excuse to mistreat others or sin. Instead, trust the Lord to take care of it.

Off the Field

- Think of something kind you can do for someone in your life who is regularly unkind to you (a sibling, neighborhood kid, school bully, etc.). Show them God's love, even if they don't show any love in return.
- Make sure that you are doing everything you can to live at peace with others. Do nothing to start or worsen conflict with someone else.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. As this is the final week, there is no memory verse this week. However, it would be a good idea to encourage the players to learn verse 21.
3. Use this final week to reflect on the things your team has learned this season. Have players share what they have learned about the Lord this year. Consider sharing a story of what the Lord is doing in your heart.