

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 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.

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 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

## In the Word

Who here has ever been mistreated? How did you feel? How did you want to respond? Sadly in our world today, people are often unkind to one another, and when someone is mean to us, we usually want to be mean back. But the Bible has a lot to say about how Christians should respond when others mistreat us, as we will see today in Romans 12:17-21.

When someone treats us wrongly, in our hearts we usually want to get even. If your classmate hits you, you want to hit them. If your sister takes one of your chicken nuggets without asking, you take her French fries. The Bible calls this behavior "avenging yourselves" (see verse 19), and today's verses are clear that this is not right. The response to evil is never more evil. Instead, we are to respond to sin by doing right and trusting God to take care of us.

Rather than getting back at others when they mistreat us, verse 18 says that we should be at peace with others as much as depends on us. Sometimes, people will dislike and be unkind to you even if you've done nothing wrong, and that's not your fault. However, the Bible tells us to be sure that we aren't the cause of any division or problems with others. If someone dislikes you, it should never be because you were being unkind to them, or even that you responded to their unkindness by being mean in return. We should want to make peace.

Doing our best to live at peace with others doesn't just mean not responding to unkindness with more unkindness. Notice that verse 21

## In the Word (Continued)

doesn't say, "do not be overcome by evil, just ignore it." Rather, we are told to respond to evil by doing good. As an example, Paul says that if someone unkind to us is hungry or thirsty, we should give them food and drink. We don't defeat sin by responding to it with more sin, or even ignoring it. The way to defeat (overcome) evil is with good.

Now we can do all that we can to show kindness to others, and yet they may still sin against us. In those situations, rather than fighting back, we need to continue to do what's right and trust in God to take care of us (getting an adult involved is a good idea too). Even though people may treat you unfairly, God is always fair. That doesn't mean He will fix the situation the way we want right away every time, but we know that in the end, He will always make things right.

"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

- 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.

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, 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.