

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 9

Keep My Commandments

Keep My Commandments

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 encourage the players to take the things they've learned this season about being a disciple and put them into practice.

Scripture Passage:

"If you love Me, keep My commandments."
John 14:15

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
James 1:22

Coaches Guide

This season, we have learned what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Hopefully, all of your players have made the decision to become followers of Jesus. During our devotions, we talked about how believers should love, be humble, serve others, forgive, and pray. Now it's time to put those things we've learned into action.

As disciples, it's not enough simply to know what Jesus wants us to do. Jesus says that if we truly love Him, we will show it by keeping His commandments (John 14:15). James 1:22 warns us that if we are only hearers of God's Word, and not doers of it, we are deceiving ourselves about being a follower of Jesus. True disciples put the things Jesus says into practice. We won't be perfect, but as Christians, we should do our best to please the Lord in every area of our lives by doing what He says in His Word, the Bible.

It's also important to note that the reason John 14:15 says we obey Christ's commands is because we love Him. As Christ's followers, we do what He says not out of fear, not because He forces us, but because we love Him. Obedience to Christ's commands is our loving response to all He's given us and all He's done for us.

We are never going to be perfect at following and obeying Jesus on this side of heaven. We will sin and make mistakes, but disciples of Christ seek to constantly mature in their walks with the Lord. All of us should look for ways we can grow and improve in our obedience to the Lord.

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 are some of the things we've talked about in team devotions this season? How does Jesus want His disciples to live?
2. According to John 14:15, how do we show that we love Jesus? What does James 1:22 mean by being a "hearer" or a "doer" of God's Word?
3. How do we know what Jesus' commandments are?
4. Why should we obey His commandments?
5. What is one area of life where you would like to grow and improve as a disciple of Jesus Christ? How can you put Jesus' commands into practice and be a "doer" of God's Word?

On the Field

- One of the things we learned about this season was forgiveness. If there is a player on your team that you don't get along with or has done something wrong to you, forgive one another today, before the season ends.
- It's easy to say you want to honor the Lord by respecting your teammates, opponents, and the referees, but the real test is doing those things during the game. If this is a struggle for you, pray and ask Jesus for help.

Off the Field

- It may be easy to follow Jesus at Church, but you should live for and obey Jesus at home, at school, and with your friends.
- Is there a part of following Jesus that is difficult for you? Pray and ask Jesus to help you show your love for Him by keeping His commandments.
- In order to follow Jesus' commands, you have to know what they are. Study God's Word and then do the things it says.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Since this is the last week, there is no new memory verse to learn.
3. Even as the season ends, do your best to stay in touch with your players and try to continue to encourage them in their walks with the Lord.