

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

All season, we have been learning about what it means to be one of Jesus' disciples. Hopefully, you've all made the choice to follow Jesus, but that leaves you with a responsibility: if you want to be a disciple, you have to live like one.

In our times in God's Word this year, we've seen that followers of Jesus love one another, are humble, serve others, forgive people, pray, and share the Good News of Jesus with others so that they can become disciples as well. But it's not enough simply to know how Jesus wants us to live. In John 14:15, Jesus tells us that as His followers, we must keep, or obey, these commands. Now that we've learned all these things this season, it's time to put them into practice.

Of course, the things we've studied this year aren't the only commands God gives us. The Bible is full of instructions from God on how we should live. As His followers, we need to read the Scriptures to know what it says, but James 1:22 warns that we can't just be hearers of the Word of God. We need to be doers, people who obey it.

It's important to notice the reason John 14:15 gives us for keeping Jesus' commandments. He doesn't say, "I demand that you obey Me," or, "Keep My commands, or else." He says, "If you *love* Me, keep My commandments." Jesus wants us to obey Him, not because He's forcing us, but because we love Him and want to please Him. All that Jesus has done for us and all the good things He has given us should cause us to love Him,

In the Word (Continued)

and our obedience to Christ's commandments shows that we love Him.

Keeping God's commands not only shows our love to God, but also demonstrate His love for us. He loves us and knows what's best for us. He gives us His commandments to show us how we should live, and so there is also great blessing for us in keeping His commands.

Being a disciple is not always easy, and we will make mistakes and sin as we try to follow Christ. Jesus knows we're not perfect, and when we turn to Him in repentance, He gives forgiveness and grace. But we should be trying to continue to grow in our walk with the Lord throughout our entire lives. Followers of Jesus make it our aim to become more like our Savior in all of our thoughts, words, and actions. So let's all keep Jesus' commands and live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

"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

- 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. Read God's Word with your family and then do the things it says.

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, 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.