

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 1

What Does the Lord Require?

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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 show the kids that following the Lord means giving Him our whole lives.

Scripture Passage:

"He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8

Coaches Guide

What does it mean to follow and please God? In the days of the prophet Micah, the Israelites thought that all they needed to do to please the Lord was offer sacrifices. They worshipped idols and mistreated one another, but they thought that because they offered their sacrifices, they were right with God. In Micah 6:6-8, Micah told Israel that the Lord didn't need their sacrifices. He wanted them to do justly (act with justice), love kindness, and walk humbly with their God. In other words, in order to please God, they needed to have a right relationship with Him that could be seen in the way that they worshipped Him and treated others. They could offer all the sacrifices they wanted, but as long as they continued to disobey Him in the way they lived, their sacrifices were meaningless.

Today, many people have a similar mentality. They think that going to church on Sundays or doing "religious activities" are what make them a Christian. Now these are good things, but if we do them on Sundays and then live however we want the rest of the time, we aren't really following the Lord. He wants our whole lives. That means loving Jesus and living the way He says not just at church, but when you're at home, at school, with your friends, or even by yourself. Jesus wants our total commitment to follow Him in every aspect of our lives.

This season, we are going to look at verses that explain how to live a life that pleases God. These next few weeks, we will go over Micah 6:8 and see what it means to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

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 do you think it means to be a Christian? How do you think God asks us to live?
2. The Israelites thought that as long as they offered sacrifices, they could live any way they wanted. Does this please the Lord? Why or why not?
3. What are "religious activities"? Can we live however we want as long as we do them?
4. What does God really want from us? What does it look like to give Jesus our whole lives? What areas of your life are the hardest to be a Christian and obey the Lord?

On the Field

- Playing sports as a Christian doesn't just mean praying or reading the Bible before the game. Honor Him with the way you play on the field.
- Giving God your whole life means praising Him at all times. Whether you win or lose, thank and praise God after the game.
- During devotion times this year, don't just come because you have to or learn verses for a prize. Seek to grow in your walk with the Lord.

Off the Field

- Obey God's Word whether you are at church, home, school, your neighborhood, or with friends.
- Take the things you learn about God at church and soccer and live them out in your everyday life.
- To give Jesus your whole life, He has to be your Lord and Savior first. If you've never made that decision before, talk to a Christian you know about how to become a believer. That could be your parents, grandparents, coach, pastor, or anyone else you know who is a Christian.

The Game Plan

1. Learn and memorize Micah 6:8 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
2. As this is the first week, take some time to make sure everyone knows each other's names.
3. Over the next 3 weeks we will look at what, "do justly," "love mercy," and, "walk humbly with your God," mean. For today, focus on the big picture: God wants our whole lives.
4. If there is a player who has never given their life to the Lord and would like to, give them the opportunity to do so today.