

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 year olds**

Week 1

*What Does the Lord Require?*

# What Does the Lord Require?

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 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

## In the Word

What does it mean to be a Christian? What does God want from us? A long time ago, the Israelites (God's chosen people) thought they knew the answer. The Lord had commanded them to give Him their animals as sacrifices, and so they believed that as long as they did that, that would make God happy and then they could do whatever they wanted. They worshipped other gods and mistreated their friends and neighbors, and then they offered their animals to God and thought everything was okay. But in Micah 6:6-8, the Lord told the Israelites that they had gotten it all wrong. Yes, He had told them to offer sacrifices, but there was something much more important to God than these animals.

So then what did God want? In Micah 6:8, Micah said that God had already told them what to do. If they really wanted to please Him, they should do justly (treat others right), love mercy (be kind and forgiving), and walk humbly with their God (have a relationship with Him). In other words, God wanted them to love Him, keep His commands, and love others. They couldn't just offer sacrifices and then live how they wanted the rest of the time. They needed to live God's way in every place, at every time, and with every person. He didn't just want their animals. He wanted their hearts, their whole lives.

This verse was true back in Bible times, and it's still true today. Jesus wants us to follow Him and give Him our whole lives. Being a Christian is about more than just going to Sunday school or learning

## In the Word (Continued)

memory verses. Following Jesus means loving Him and obeying Him in everything we do. It's one thing to be a Christian on Sunday at church, but do you act the same way around your friends at school, on your sports teams, or in your neighborhood? If we only obey God on Sundays and then live however we want the rest of the week, we aren't really following the Lord at all. God doesn't just want your obedience some of the time. He wants your all of you! If you want to live a life that pleases the Lord, you have to make the choice to follow and obey Him with your whole life.

This season, we're going to look at what it means to follow God and give Him your whole life. Over the next few weeks, we'll look closely at Micah 6:8 and learn how we can do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

"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

- 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.
- Don't just learn your memory verses to get a prize. Learn them so that you can hide God's Word in your heart.

### Off the Field

- Treat others the way that God wants you to, 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 your coach or a parent, grandparent, or Sunday School teacher who knows the Lord.

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. 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.