

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 2

Do Justly

Do Justly

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 teach the players that justice is doing what's fair and right to others.

Scripture Passage:

**"Blessed are those who keep justice,
And he who does righteousness at all times!"**

Psalm 106:3

Coaches Guide

Last week, we learned in Micah 6:8 that God wants us to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. This week, we are going to learn what it means to "do justly."

To do justly means to act with justice. The concept of justice is an important one on the Bible. Justice is when someone does the right thing and treats people with fairness. In our memory verse today, we see that God blesses those who act with justice and do what's right.

Everyone wants to be treated fairly, and we quickly notice when someone does not treat us with justice. In a soccer game, everyone gets upset when they think the other team is cheating or the ref makes a bad call because that doesn't feel like justice. Around the dinner table, we may complain when someone's portion is bigger than our own. But the Bible doesn't tell us to get justice for ourselves. Instead, we are commanded to make sure we treat others with justice, even if we don't receive justice back. When we treat others this way, we are imitating God, who always acts with justice and does what's right and fair.

Acting with justice can start with being fair to others, but it's more than that. It includes helping those who might not receive justice from others, like the poor. It can mean doing the right thing even when it costs you something and helping others even though you receive no benefit. God doesn't promise that Christians will always receive justice right away, but He does say He will bless those who act justly toward others.

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 were the three things that Micah 6:8 (last week's verse) said we need to do to please the Lord?
2. What do you think it means to "do justly"? What is justice?
3. Have players share about a time when they were treated unfairly. How did that feel? Do you ever treat others without justice?
4. As Christians, is it more important for us to make sure others treat us with justice, or for us to treat others with justice? Do we always receive justice when we treat others justly? Should we still treat others justly?
5. What would it look like for us to treat others with justice?

On the Field

- Just because you think you can get away with cheating doesn't mean you should do it. Play with fairness and justice.
- If you think the other team is cheating, that doesn't give you an excuse to break a rule yourself. Injustice can't be fought with more injustice.
- Don't disrespect the referee if you think a call was unfair. Remember, it's more important to give justice than to make sure you receive it.

Off the Field

- When someone does something wrong that hurts you, justice isn't getting even with that person. Justice is continuing to do what's right.
- Are you treating others fairly but not receiving justice in return? Remember that our verse says God will bless those who keep justice.
- You may know someone who is not treated with much justice. It's especially important to show kindness and love to someone like that.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Micah 6:8, "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?" Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Psalm 106:3 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. You can't control whether the other team plays fairly or if the ref will make the right calls, but you can control how you play and respond. As a team, commit to playing justly and fairly, no matter what happens.