

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 2

*Many Members*

# Many Members

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 that in the Body of Christ (and on our team), every member plays an important part and is necessary.

## Scripture Passage:

"For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? **But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.** And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary." 1 Corinthians 12:14-22 (memory verse, 1 Cor 12:18, in bold)

## Coaches Guide

Last week, we saw how different parts coming together to form one body gives us a picture of the Church, as well as of our team. Just as each part is designed differently to do what it was made to do, the Church is made up of many different people with different gifts, strengths, and weaknesses. In 1 Corinthians 12:14-22, Paul wrote to a church that believed Christians with certain gifts were more significant or spiritual than others. In these verses, Paul disproves their way of thinking.

To point out the folly of this belief, Paul again uses the image of a body. It would be ridiculous for a foot to feel unneeded and want to leave the body because it is not a hand. Both hands and feet do vital work for the body, and the body would be worse off without either of them. It would be equally ridiculous for an eye to tell a hand to leave the body because it was unnecessary. Each of our body parts perform important, vital functions, and to be at its best a body needs all of them.

The same way, every members of a team and of the Body of Christ is important. No believer or player on the team is unnecessary, nor are they so great that they don't need the rest of the Church or their team. Whether you are a defender, forward, midfielder, or goalie, you play an important role on the team. Whether you are gifted at teaching, taking care of people, evangelism, compassion or something else, you can be a valued part of what God's doing in the Church. We are all important and necessary to the Body of Christ and need one another.

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. How do our different gifts and talents make each of us like different parts of a body?
2. What point is being made in our verses when it says the foot can't say it is not a part of the body because it is not a hand? What about when the eye says to the hand it isn't needed?
3. What are different ways we can be gifted as soccer players? How do these gifts make each player on the team important?
4. How can different Christians be gifted? How can these gifts be used to benefit the Body of Christ?

## On the Field

- Do you think you're the star player on the team? Remember that you can't win without your teammates and be sure to encourage them in the things they do.
- Do you think your team doesn't need you? Don't focus on your weaknesses or what you can't do. Remember that just as every part of the body is needed, every player on the team has an important job.

## Off the Field

- God has given every believer gifts and talents that can be used to serve the Lord. Think about how God has gifted you and ways you can use those gifts to help other Christians or tell unbelievers about Jesus.
- Fight against any feelings of pride and superiority in areas you have been gifted in.
- Don't complain about the ways you aren't gifted. Instead, use the ways you have been gifted to glorify Christ.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 12:12. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 Corinthians 12:18 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Focus on pointing out the gifts and skill sets that all of your players have. Point out how each person plays a valuable, important part on the team. Then look at their talents off the field and how they can be used to glorify the Lord.