

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 2

*The Paths of Righteousness*

# The Paths of Righteousness

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 kids how Jesus fixes our sin nature and leads us in what is right.

## Scripture Passage:

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. **He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**”

Psalm 23:1-3 (verse 3 in **bold**)

## Coaches Guide

Last week, we saw how our relationship with God is like that of a shepherd and his sheep. A shepherd leads, protects, and provides for his sheep, and the Lord does the same for us. Today, we are going to focus on how the Lord leads us.

As we noted last week, sheep have a bad sense of direction and are prone to wander and become lost. Spiritually, this is true of us as well. All of us are born with a messed-up sense of right and wrong. The Bible calls this our sin nature. When there's one slice of pizza left, your sin nature tells you to make sure that you get it before anyone else, even if you've already had plenty. When someone hurts or insults you, your sin nature doesn't want to show kindness and forgiveness. It wants to get even.

The Lord doesn't want us to follow our sin nature and wander from Him. That's why our verse tells us that He does two things for us. First, He restores our soul, meaning that He fixes us so that we no longer have to follow our sin nature. Instead, when you trust Him as Savior, He sets your heart right so that you have the desire to obey God. Then, He leads us on the paths of righteousness by showing us what's right and wrong.

The Lord uses several methods to lead us. In Scripture, He teaches us what is true and what is false, what is right and what is wrong. He also gives us the Holy Spirit so that we know inside our hearts what is good and pleasing to Him. Finally, He uses our parents, grandparents, teachers, and other believers who can teach us what's right, tell us when we're doing what's wrong, and help us to follow the Lord.

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 did we compare our relationship to the Lord with last week? In what ways is He like a Shepherd and are we like sheep?
2. Why do I need the Lord to "restore my soul"? Do we naturally desire to do what we want, or what God wants? Give some examples.
3. In what ways does the Lord "lead me in the paths of righteousness"? How does He show/teach us what's right or wrong?
4. What are some situations where you feel tempted to act selfishly or do what's wrong? What might help you to obey the Lord and follow Him on "the paths of righteousness"?

## On the Field

- When you score a goal, your sin nature will tempt you to brag and gloat, but the Lord wants you to be humble and give glory to Him.
- You may be tempted to try to get even if another player knocks you down, but the right thing to do is show forgiveness.
- If you are tempted to yell at or disrespect the refs, remember that God wants us to honor those who are in authority.

## Off the Field

- Your sin nature tells you to get even when someone wrongs you, but God says to forgive them and show them love.
- Sin causes you to think selfishly and seek the things that you want, even at the expense of other, but the Lord says to consider and treat others better than yourself.
- Reading God's Word is an important step in knowing what's right or wrong.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Psalm 23:1-2. Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Psalm 23:3 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Go over other situations when you might be tempted, such as the ones listed in the "On the Field/Off the Field" section. Ask what our sin nature tempts us to do. What does God want us to do?