

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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**)

In the Word

Last week, we learned that the Lord is our Shepherd and we are His sheep. He leads us, protects us, and provide us with the things we need, just like a shepherd does for his sheep. Now sheep have a very bad sense of direction. Without a shepherd to lead them, sheep don't know which way is the right way to go and which way is wrong. The same is true for us spiritually.

Our problem is that each of us is born with something called a sin nature. Our sin nature is the part of us that wants to do the wrong thing. When your parents tell you not to have any more cookies, your sin nature is what tells you to sneak into the kitchen and take one when they aren't looking. When someone hurts you or says something unkind, your sin nature wants to get even and hurt them back. Following our sin nature causes us to make bad choices that can hurt ourselves and others. As our Good Shepherd, the Lord wants to keep us from following our sin nature and instead lead us down the right path.

In Psalm 23:3, we see how the Lord fixes the problem of our sin nature. First, it says that "He restores my soul." When we trust Jesus as our Savior, He defeats the sin nature inside of us, allowing us to live for Him. Then our verse says, "He leads me in the paths of righteousness." That means that He shows us the right way to go by teaching us what is right and what is wrong. He does this in several ways. The main way is through the Bible. The Bible teaches us what's true and what's false,

In the Word (Continued)

what's right and what's wrong. Everything God wants His people to do can be found in His Word. The Lord also leads us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives inside of every believer, telling us what God wants us to do. Finally, God uses parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, and other adults in your life to guide you in the way He wants you to go.

Even after you trust Jesus as your Savior, your sin nature will still try to tempt you to do what's wrong. Whenever you are tempted, you have a choice to make. Will you listen to your sin nature and do what's wrong? Or will you follow the Lord our Shepherd in the paths of righteousness and do what pleases Him? Your sin nature will try to tell you that doing what's wrong will feel good, but the truth is that following the Lord is what's best for us, so let's follow our Shepherd!

"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

- 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 is unkind to you, but God says to forgive them and show them love.
- Sin causes you to think selfishly and try to always be first and get your way, but the Lord says to consider and treat others better than yourself.
- Reading God's Word with your family is an important step in knowing what's right or wrong.

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. 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?