

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 2

Whatever is True

Whatever is True

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 the truth is important to God and we can always find the truth in His Word.

Scripture Passage:

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

John 17:17

Coaches Guide

Last week, we began studying the list of things Paul tells us to think about in Philippians 4:8, which begins with, “whatever is true”. As many of us have experienced through broken promises and scam messages, you can say anything you'd like, but if it isn't true, it's meaningless or worse. As believers, we are called to think about, believe, and speak what is true.

Speaking the truth goes beyond saying things that are technically accurate. Half-lies, misleading statements, or leaving things out does not please God. He wants us to be honest and tell the full truth. Sometimes the truth means admitting you are wrong and can lead to consequences, but even in those times it is better to be truthful because it pleases the Lord.

Often knowing the truth can be difficult because we live in a sinful world that would have us to believe all sorts of lies (e.g. that God is not real, sin is okay, there are many ways to be saved). The good news is that God has given us the ultimate source of truth. In John 17:17, Jesus says that God's Word is truth. Titus 1:2 says that God cannot lie, so we can trust that whatever we read in the Bible will always be true. When we don't know what's true, we can use Scripture as our reliable guide.

To live lives that think, believe, and speak truth, we must be mindful of the people and things we surround ourselves with. Sinful peers and ungodly media will lead us astray from the truth. But when we are spending time in God's Word and our friends are encouraging us in the ways of the Lord, our thoughts and words will be full of truth.

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. Have you ever been promised something that wasn't true? What happened? Why do you think the truth is important?
2. What does it mean to tell the truth? Are there things we can say that seem true, but are actually lies? When is it hard to be honest?
3. Where can we be sure we will find truth? How do we know that the Bible is true? Do you believe that?
4. How can the people around us and the media we consume affect if we think, believe, and speak truth? What are some good ways to surround yourself with truth? What should you avoid?

On the Field

- In your conversations with one another, talk to your teammates about the truths found in the Scripture.
- Be honest with your teammates, even if that means admitting you made a mistake.
- Sometimes in soccer we say things that are not true, such as accusing the other team of cheating or the refs of being unfair. These things are untrue, so let's not say them.

Off the Field

- It's important to be honest when we've made a mistake, even if there are consequences to our actions.
- Think about the media choices you make. Do the shows, movies, music, and books you consume fill your mind with biblical truth, or worldly lies?
- Spend time filling your life with the truth of God's Word. If you don't know whether or not something is true, check what the Bible has to say about it.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Philippians 4:8 (NIV): "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize John 17:17 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Encourage the kids who didn't learn Philippians 4:8 this week to learn it for next week, since we will be studying it all season.