

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 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.

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 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

In the Word

Last week in Philippians 4:8, Paul gave us a list of things to think about and fill our lives with. The things on this list honor and please the Lord, and so as Christians, we should do our best to do them. Does anyone remember what the first thing on our list is? "Whatever is true." Why do you think the truth is so important?

As your coach, how would you feel if I lied to you all the time? What if I kept telling you to do the wrong thing, knowing that bad things could happen to you or you could get hurt or in trouble? Would you trust me? Of course not! When we lie, we hurt others, but we also hurt ourselves because people will no longer trust us. Most importantly, we displease God when we lie, because God wants us to tell the truth. But when we say things that are true to one another, we help others out, build others up, and help them to trust us more.

It can be hard to tell the truth. When your parents ask you if you cleaned your room and you know you didn't, or your teacher asks for your homework and you didn't do it, that can be hard to admit. But when we tell the truth, even when there are consequences, we can build trust with other people. It might mean admitting you were wrong, but the truth is always better in the end, and it pleases the Lord.

Sometimes, we might not know what is true. The good news is that God gave us something that is always true: His Word. In John 17:17, Jesus says that God's Word is truth. That means every single thing we read in

In the Word (Continued)

the Bible is true! Titus 1:2 says that God “cannot lie,” so we don’t have to worry about whether or not we can trust something that we read in the Scriptures. It’s all from Him, so it’s all true!

When it comes to truth, who we spend time with and what we watch, read, and listen to are important. The more we think about and listen to things that are true, just like Philippians 4:8 says, the more we will speak the truth. If we are always spending time with lying people or watch ungodly TV shows, we will probably not be thinking about or speaking much truth. But when we read God’s Word and surround ourselves with godly friends, our lives will be filled with truth and it will be much easier to tell the truth. So let’s fill our lives with truth and make sure to always be honest with others.

“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

- Be honest with your teammates. It’s a great way to build trust on your team.
- 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 not true, so let’s not say them.
- Spend time with teammates who tell the truth and talk about the truth of God’s Word.

Off the Field

- Telling the truth can be hard, especially when we’ve made a mistake, but admitting when you did something wrong is the honest thing to do. It builds trust with others and pleases the Lord.
- Choose friends who are honest with you and others.
- 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.

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, 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.