

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 3

Joy

Joy

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 the kids that a believer's joy is found in meditating on what Christ has done for us in saving and blessing us.

Scripture Passage:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"

Philippians 4:4

Coaches Guide

Christian joy is completely different than the world's view of what joy is. The world's idea of joy is based completely on circumstances. When things are good, unbelievers say they are happy, but when things are bad, there is no joy. However, Philippians 4:4 tells us that Christian joy means that, as believers, we rejoice in the Lord always.

The key phrase in this verse is "in the Lord." Take that out, and the verse is a ridiculous command to be happy all the time. We all know how hard it is to rejoice when things are bad. But Christian joy is not based on our external circumstances, but based on what the Lord has done for us and the future hope we have in Him. We rejoice because, no matter what happens to us, our sins are forgiven. We rejoice because, even if things are bad, we know that we have a future with Christ forever in heaven. This does not mean that we are happy that bad things happen to us. Instead, we rejoice knowing that even though bad things may come, the good things Christ has done and the hope and future we have in him outweigh any pain we might have in this life.

So the key to joy then is spending time meditating on the good things God has done and the future we have in Him. When we focus on our present circumstances, our joy will be based on what happens to us, but when we focus on what God has done, is doing, and will do for us, the Holy Spirit will give us the power to have true Christian joy, even in difficult situations.

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 does the unbelieving world say that happiness is? How does that contrast with the Christian view of joy?
2. What is the key phrase of Philippians 4:4? What does it mean to rejoice "in the Lord"?
3. What does Paul mean when he says to rejoice "*always*"? Are we supposed to be happy about bad things that happen to us?
4. What reasons do we have to rejoice in the Lord? What has He done for us? What hope do we have in Him?

On the Field

- There are many bad things that can happen to you in a soccer game (injuries, fouls, loss). True Christian joy means that in those circumstances, we will have joy because of all the good things God has done for us.
- Joy in defeat doesn't mean that you won't be disappointed, but that you recognize that who we are in Christ is way better than a soccer game. In victory, joy is not boasting in the win but giving thanks to God.

Off the Field

- Spend time this week thinking of all the reasons Christ gives us to have joy. Then pray and thank God for saving you and for giving you all kinds of blessings.
- This week you will probably experience a difficult situation. In those situations, try to remember all that Jesus has done for you.
- The joy of Christ is so great that we should share about Him with our unbelieving friends and family so they can share in our joy.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 1 John 4:11. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 4:4 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Before the game, have the team come up with as many reasons to be joyful in the Lord as possible. After the game, win or lose, review that list and make sure the team leaves in joy.