

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**4-9 year olds**

Week 3

*Love Mercy*

# Love Mercy

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 mercy means treating people with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness, and that we should treat others with mercy.

## Scripture Passage:

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32

## In the Word

Last week, we talked about doing justly, which means treating other people with fairness. We all want to be treated fairly, but sometimes people do wrong, unkind, or unfair things to us. When that happens, what should we do? Some think that the fair thing to do would be to be unkind back. After all, they were mean first. They deserve to be treated that way. But if we keep responding to unkindness with unkindness, the world would become a worse and worse place, wouldn't it?

This is why, after Micah 6:8 says that we should “do justly,” he adds that we should “love mercy.” But what is mercy? Mercy is when you don't give someone the consequence or punishment they deserve. Ephesians 4:32 gives a great picture of what mercy looks like: being kind to others (even if they are unkind to you), being tenderhearted (having compassion and trying to understand the other person and look at things their way), and forgiving them. So when someone does something wrong and sins against you, mercy would mean, rather than being unkind back at them to get even, you would try to understand how the other person feels and why they were unkind, forgive them for whatever they did, and continue to show kindness to them.

Maybe you're thinking, “That's not fair! If someone is mean to me, why should I have to show mercy to them?” That's why our verse ends with an important reminder: Christ forgave us. He showed us mercy. We all have sinned against God even though He loves us and has never done

## In the Word (Continued)

wrong to us. He could have let us stay in our sins, and we would have been separated from Him forever. But instead, He was tenderhearted. He did not want us to be separated from Him, so He died for us even though we were still sinners. He forgave us of our sins even though we didn't deserve it. Since Jesus showed us such incredible mercy, shouldn't we also be merciful to other people.

Every time someone is unkind and mistreats us, we have a choice. We can be unkind back and try to get even, but that will only make things worse. Or, we can show mercy to the other person. We can have compassion, forgive them, and be kind to them, even if they continue to be unkind. Being merciful is not the easy choice, but it's the right choice, and it's what Jesus showed us.

"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

- Did another player foul or hurt you? Don't play dirty or try to get even. Forgive them.
- Are you in a disagreement or fight with a teammate? Try to understand how they feel (show compassion), forgive them for anything they did to you, and be kind to them.
- Refs make mistakes, and mercy is more than just not yelling at them. Be kind, understanding, and forgiving to them.

### Off the Field

- It's hardest to show mercy to those closest to us. Be kind and forgiving toward your family when they get on your nerves.
- When you get into a fight with another person, the best way to restore that relationship is to show mercy. Try to understand things from their point of view, forgive them, and keep showing them kindness.
- Be kind to others even when they treat you with injustice.

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 106:3, "Blessed are those who keep justice, and he who does righteousness at all times!" Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:32 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. When one of your players gets upset with someone this week, encourage them to show mercy to that person with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness.