

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 3

Love One Another

Love One Another

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 why and how we should love one another as part of the Body of Christ.

Scripture Passage:

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

1 John 4:7-8

Coaches Guide

In our first two studies, we looked at how the Church and our team are like a body, the Body of Christ. Over the next few weeks, we are going to see how we should live in light of this fact. Today, we will talk about how as members of the same Body, we ought to love one another.

1 John 4:7-8 says that loving one another is a sign that we know God, and those who don't love others don't really know God. In other words, loving our fellow believers is one of the requirements for being a part of the Body of Christ. Since we are part of the same Body, loving other Christians is the same as loving our own body. We can't claim to be part of the Body of Christ yet not love our fellow believers any more than our hand can say it loves being part of the body but hates our feet. Loving Christ and His Body means loving the whole Body. Love is how Jesus said the world will know we're Christians (John 13:35).

But what does love mean? It's more than just liking the people who are nice to you, having fuzzy feelings toward someone, or romantic attraction. The Bible says the ultimate example of love is Christ dying for us (1 John 4:10). Jesus shows us that love is an action, self-sacrificial, and should be extended even to those who don't deserve it. Our love should look like His. We should love with our actions. It's not enough to say we love someone, our deeds need to match. We should love self-sacrificially, blessing other people even if it costs us something. And we should love everyone, even those who don't deserve it or are unloving to us.

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. Review what we've already learned about the Body of Christ.
2. What command does 1 John 4:7-8 give us? According to the verses, what can we tell about a person by whether or not they love others? What does loving others have to do with being part of the Body of Christ? Why do you think it's important to love our fellow believers?
3. What do non-believers think that love means? What is the ultimate example of love according to the Bible?
4. What does Christ's example teach us about what love really is? How can we follow His example?

On the Field

- Is there a teammate, opponent, coach, or ref that is difficult to love? Love isn't just putting up with them, but looking for ways to show them kindness.
- Put your teammates' needs ahead of your own and think of how can you help someone today, even if it costs you.
- Remember that your opponents and the refs are also part of the Body of Christ. Treat them with respect in your words and actions as you compete today.

Off the Field

- As Christians, we are called to love others even if they don't love us. Think of someone who is difficult for you to love and make it your goal this week to do something to bless them.
- Show your family that you love them with your actions and do something kind to bless them.
- Consider others' needs first. Look for ways to help and bless others rather than trying to get what you want.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 12:18. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 John 4:7-8 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. The Bible tells us not just to love our friends, but our enemies, or those who we don't get along with or who mistreat us. Challenge your players to show love this week to someone who is difficult to love.