

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 3

Whatever is Noble and Right

Whatever is Noble and Right

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 students the importance of doing what is right even when it is difficult.

Scripture Passage:

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:21

In the Word

This season, we've been going through the list of things Paul tells us to think about in Philippians 4:8. Last week, we looked at the first item on that list, "Whatever is true". Today we will study the next two things, "Whatever is noble," and, "whatever is right". Doing what's noble and right means doing what Jesus would want us to do in every situation.

Most of the time, it's easy to know what the right thing to do is. When someone asks us a question, the right thing to do is tell the truth. With our friends, we are supposed to use kind words. We know that it's noble to obey our parents and teachers. The problem is, even though we know what to do, there are things that make it hard to do what's right. When someone is making fun of you, it is difficult to treat them with kindness. If our parents ask us to do a chore that's difficult, we might not want to do it. When the kids around us are bullying someone, it might be tempting to join in instead of standing up for the person being bullied.

Our memory verse tells us not to be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. The word "overcome" is often used in sports to mean when you win against the other team, so it is like the Bible is saying life is like a soccer game against evil (bad things). Either you win by doing the right thing, or evil wins by getting you to do what's wrong. Not being overcome by evil means that we can't let evil win. When we are tempted to do the wrong thing, such as lie to someone, make fun of someone, or disobey our parents, we have to say no to sin and temptation.

In the Word (Continued)

So how do we win against evil? Not just by not sinning, but by doing what's right, even when it's hard. That means obeying your parents, even when you don't feel like it. It means being kind to others even when they are unkind to you. It could be standing up for someone when others are picking on them. When we do right even when it's easier to do what's wrong, we are overcoming evil. Then, not only are we pleasing the Lord, but we make it easier for others to do what's right to. When you are kind to someone who is unkind to you, they might start acting a bit nicer. When you obey your parents with a good attitude, it pleases them and they may reward you. It won't be easy, but with the Lord's help, we can do what's right in these difficult situations and overcome evil with good.

"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

- It's hard to be kind to players on the other team when you're playing against them. Overcome that temptation and show them kindness.
- When your team is losing, you may be tempted to say or do things that are not right. Make sure your words and actions honor the Lord, no matter the score.
- Obey your coaches, even if they ask you to play a position you don't want to play.

Off the Field

- Sometimes your brothers and sisters are the hardest people to love. Do something nice for them, even if they are mean to you.
- Don't just obey your parents. Try doing things they want without being told what to do.
- If you see someone getting picked on, stand up for them, even if no one else is.

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, John 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Romans 12:21 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize to the kids that while we want to do our best and try to win the game, what's most important today is that we honor the Lord and do what's right.
4. If there are any kids who haven't learned Philippians 4:8 yet, encourage them to do so.