

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 4

Forgive One Another

Forgive 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 kids the importance of forgiving others when they do something wrong to us.

Scripture Passage:

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; **bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.**”

Colossians 3:12-13 (memory verse, Colossians 3:13, in **bold**)

Coaches Guide

Last week, we looked at the importance of love for one another within the Body of Christ. While love is always the goal, we often fall short, which is what makes today's topic, forgiveness, necessary.

Colossians 3:13 commands us as believers to bear with one another and forgive one another. This means responding to sins against us not by holding a grudge, starting a fight, or ending the relationship, but moving past the issue and seeking to restore the friendship. The goal of true forgiveness is not just tolerating one another, but fixing the relationship.

Our analogy of the body helps to illustrate the need for forgiveness. In a body, our parts make mistakes that may cause pain to other parts of the body. Our feet tripping could hurt our head. If our mouth eats the wrong thing, it could cause stomach pain. If one part left the body every time another part hurt it, that would be chaos! Instead, our body parts continue to help one another despite these mistakes. The same way, we ought to forgive one another, not be divided, when others sin against us.

The end of the verse gives us the biggest reason for forgiving one another: because Christ forgave us. He died to forgive all our sins, even before we repented and even though we didn't deserve it. If Christ forgave us so greatly, how could we not forgive others, even if they don't deserve it? This season, there will be times when our teammates sin against us. When that happens, it's important that we forgive one another and seek to restore the relationship.

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. How does forgiveness relate to our topic from last week of loving one another? What does true forgiveness look like?
2. How does the image of the body help us to understand about the importance of forgiveness?
3. What is the most important reason we should forgive one another? What does Christ's example teach us about forgiveness?
4. Share a time with your team where you had to show someone forgiveness (it can be an example of success or failure in forgiving). What happened? How did it end? What did you learn?

On the Field

- Is there anyone on this team you don't get along with or are fighting with? Forgive that person and work on fixing the relationship and making it right.
- Soccer is a physical game. Don't hold it against the other team when they foul you, but rather forgive them.
- When you do something wrong, apologize in order to help others forgive you.

Off the Field

- Think about someone you don't get along with. Forgive that person and work on making things right.
- True forgiveness seeks to heal the relationship. Our goal should not be just not fighting with someone, but actual friendship.
- Just as Christ forgave us for all sins, we should forgive others no matter how many times they sin against you and even if they don't apologize.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, 1 John 4:7-8. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Colossians 3:13 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. If we don't forgive our teammates, it will hurt the team both on and off the field. Encourage your players to forgive one another if there is any division between them.