

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 4

My Cup Runs Over

My Cup Runs Over

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 look at the many ways God blesses us, and how we should respond with thanksgiving.

Scripture Passage:

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.**"

Psalm 23:1-5 (verse 5 in bold)

In the Word

Imagine that you are a shepherd who takes good care of your sheep. You provide them with food and water, protect them from predators, and lead them where they need to go. Now imagine that your sheep could talk to you... but all they did was complain! "This grass doesn't taste good! I don't like where you lead me! I want a different shepherd!" How would you feel? After all you had done for them, that would be pretty frustrating.

Unfortunately, sometimes we can be like those complaining sheep. As we've been learning this year, the Lord is our Shepherd and He takes care of us, but we don't always remember to thank God for all the amazing things He does for us. Giving thanks to God is really important, which is why David takes time to list what he's thankful for in Psalm 23:5.

The things David thanks the Lord for might sound strange, but they are actually some pretty cool blessings. First, he thanks God for a table in the presence of His enemies. What this means is that even when times are tough, God still provides him with the things he needs (like a table full of food). Oil was a fancy product in those days, and so thanking God for oil for his head was David's way of saying thanks for the nice things God gives. Finally, an overflowing cup means that God gives us even more than we could ever need, ask for, or deserve.

Maybe you don't feel like you have that much to be thankful for, but think about all the things God has done for you. He gives us the things we all need to live, like food, water, and clothes. He has given you a body that

In the Word (Continued)

can play soccer. You have family, friends, and all sorts of other nice things to thank God for. It's easy to forget that these things are gifts from God, but by thanking Him, we remember all that He has done for us.

But none of these things we've mentioned so far are the greatest thing God has done for us. The biggest thing for us to be thankful for, the greatest gift He has given us, is His Son, Jesus Christ. He sent Jesus into the world to die on the cross for our sin and rise again so that we can be saved and live with Him forever... and He did all of that while we were still sinners! We don't deserve any of the awesome things He's given us, especially Jesus dying on the cross, but He did it all anyway because He loves us. It seems only right that we should thank Him for all these wonderful blessings!

"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

- God has given you a body that is healthy enough to play soccer. You can thank God for that.
- Whether you win or lose, you can thank God for the chance to play soccer.
- Thank the Lord for giving you an opportunity to play soccer in a league where you can learn more about God's Word.
- Thank the Lord for the coaches and refs who have volunteered their time to make this league possible.

Off the Field

- Even the basic things you have, like food, water, clothes, and air are gifts from God. Thank Him for them.
- Think of all the nice things the Lord has given you and thank Him for them.
- Thank God for your friends and family.
- Most of all, thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross for your sins.

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 23:4. Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Psalm 23:5 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Our natural human tendency is to complain when things don't go our way. When that happens, as a team, remind one another of all there is to be thankful for.