

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 4

Peace

Peace

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 show the players how the peace of God can help our worries when we lift all of our problems to God in prayer.

Scripture Passage:

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**”

Philippians 4:6-7 (memory verse, Philippians 4:7, in **bold**)

In the Word

The third fruit of the Spirit is peace. Like we saw with joy, it is not always easy to have peace. When it's the night before a big test, or when we move to a new town or city, or when our family goes through a difficult time, are our hearts naturally at peace? No! We worry about what might go wrong and what might happen. Yet in Philippians 4:6-7, we are told not to be anxious (worried), but that God can give us peace.

However, becoming a Christian doesn't just instantly lead to peace. In between telling us not to worry and promising God's peace, Paul gives a step for us to do. He tells us to bring all our prayers and supplications (a fancy word for a prayer request) to God with thanksgiving. Rather than sitting around worrying and trying to figure out what we can do about our problems, these verses tell us to give Jesus our problems in prayer. When we pray, we are asking Jesus to take care of the issue, and when our problems are in His hands, we are better off than when we try to handle things on our own.

Notice two important details about verse 6. First, there's the phrase “in everything.” We are not told to give God just the easy stuff. He can handle it all! Paul also doesn't say to pray only for our big problems and not bother God with the little things. God cares about all our problems,

In the Word (Continued)

from sickness and divorce to paper cuts and math tests. The second thing to notice is that it says “with thanksgiving.” As we lift up to God our current problems, we ought to reflect on the ways He has taken care of us in the past. This not only honors Him for His past goodness, but reminds us that God has helped us before and that He can do it again.

When we lift up our prayers to God with thanksgiving, then God gives us His peace. His peace doesn’t mean that our problems will go away immediately, or even that you will understand the situation fully. God’s peace is the comfort that, no matter what happens, His Holy Spirit lives inside of us and He will take care of 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

- Think about the things you might worry about in a soccer game, such as your safety or how well you will play. Instead of worrying about them, take them to God in prayer.
- Think of some ways God has blessed your team already this season and give Him thanks for them. After the game, thank Him for ways He blesses you guys and answers your prayers.

Off the Field

- Life can be filled with all kinds of situations that make us worry. Our first response whenever we are worried is to pray to God and ask Him to take care of us and give us His peace.
- We should pray to God when we face big problems, like family emergencies or health problems, and small worries, like losing something.
- Remember how God has taken care of you in the past and thank Him for it as you pray for your current problems.

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, Philippians 4:4. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Philippians 4:7 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Take some time for prayer requests. Encourage the players to take their requests to God when they have worries. Then offer players an opportunity to thank God for ways He has helped them in the past.