

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 4

Walk Humbly with Your God

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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 players that humility means recognizing that everything we have comes from God and giving Him, not ourselves, glory for the things we do.

Scripture Passage:

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

James 4:10

In the Word

Imagine you're in the game, dribbling the ball up the field. You see your teammate is open in front of the goal, so you make an amazing pass to him, and he shoots the ball and scores. Your team gets excited, but your teammate who scored the goal celebrates like he scored all by himself. He doesn't give you any credit, even though he couldn't have scored without your great pass. How would you feel?

In that story, what your teammate did is called pride. Pride is when you take the credit and glory for yourself that belongs to someone else, especially to God, and the Bible tells us that pride is wrong. The opposite of pride is being humble, which is why the third thing Micah 6:8 tells us to do is, "Walk humbly with your God." Walking humbly with God means remembering that everything we have—our gifts, talents, salvation, and even life itself—are gifts from God. We don't deserve them and didn't earn them, so we can't brag about them. We should thank God and give Him glory for them. James 4:10 tells us that if we and humble ourselves before God, He will lift us up (bless us).

When we play sports, being humble isn't always easy. When you score a goal or make a save, you want everyone to know what a great athlete you are. You might want to brag about your skills or rub it in the other team's face. While there is certainly nothing wrong with celebrating, it becomes pride when you act like you're so much better than everyone else and try to make things all about yourself. After all, you couldn't have

In the Word (Continued)

made that play without God. Your body and your ability to play soccer are both gifts from Him. Without those gifts, you couldn't have done anything.

God has given each one of us gifts and talents. You might be good at sports, school, art, music, dancing, or something else. The reason He has given us all of these gifts is so that we can use them to glorify Him. It's not wrong to celebrate when God uses our talents to accomplish something great, but when He does, our response should not be to brag, but to praise and thank Him. If you get a good grade on your test, thank Him for helping you to remember the answers. If you sing a great song or draw a nice picture, praise Him for giving you that talent. The point is, our talents aren't for bringing glory to ourselves. We should use our gifts in order to give praise to Jesus.

"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

- If God has made you good at soccer, thank Him for giving you that ability.
- If you make a great play, take the chance to praise God. It's not wrong to celebrate a great play, but it is wrong to take glory away from God and put it on ourselves by boasting.
- Being humble doesn't mean downplaying or denying the skills you have or criticizing yourself. Humility recognizes that God has gifted you and uses that as reason to praise Him.

Off the Field

- God has given each of us talents and abilities. Whether you are good at sports, school, music, art, or anything else, praise and thank Him for it.
- Don't show off or brag about your accomplishments. Use them as an opportunity to give glory to God.
- When someone (especially a non-believer) recognizes your talents and compliments you, talk to them about the God who gave you that talent.

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, Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 4:10 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize giving God the glory in everything you do this week. That doesn't mean you can't recognize great accomplishments, but rather allow those compliments to lead to praise of the God who gives us our abilities.