

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 4

Whatever is Pure

Whatever is Pure

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 how Christ can purify us when we sin if we ask for forgiveness.

Scripture Passage:

“Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Psalm 51:10 (NIV)

Coaches Guide

Next in Philippians 4:8 is, “whatever is pure.” The word pure carries with it the idea of something completely clean or holy, without any defilement. We use pure to describe gold that has no dirt or lesser metals mixed in, or water that contains no chemicals or other ingredients. As Christians, we are called to have a pure heart.

Jesus doesn't just want partial obedience. He is not satisfied to be one of our masters, or even our greatest master. He must be our only Master. The Christian with a pure heart is one whose heart is totally for the Lord, with no sinful desires mixed in.

Unfortunately, total purity of heart is impossible before we reach heaven. All of us sin, and sin makes our hearts impure. King David, one of the godliest men who ever lived, knew this firsthand. He wrote Psalm 51 after he committed a major sin. He knew his heart was unclean and that there was nothing he could do to make it pure. That's why he asked God, the only one who can cleanse us from sin, to give him a pure heart, and God forgave and cleansed him.

1 John 1:9 says that if we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Our sin makes our hearts impure, and there is nothing we can do to cleanse ourselves, but if we confess our sins to Jesus, He can forgive us and give us a pure heart. Then we can go and make things right with the person we've sinned against.

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. What do you think the word "pure" means? What does it mean for a Christian to have a pure heart?
2. Does purity just mean having more good than bad? What is God's standard of purity?
3. Is it possible to have a completely pure heart before we get to heaven? When we sin, is there anything we can do to purify ourselves? How can we be made pure again?
4. Is there a time where you made a big mistake and God forgave you and fixed the problem? Share the story if you feel comfortable.

On the Field

- Did you disobey or disrespect your coach this season? First ask God for forgiveness, then apologize to your coach.
- When you sin against your teammates or opponents, confess that sin first to God and then that person and make things right.
- For those who are competitive, it can be easy to get caught up in the game and have that lead to sin. Ask Jesus to give you a pure heart when you play.

Off the Field

- Are you in a fight with a friend or family member because of something you did? Jesus can forgive your sin so that you can make things right with them.
- If there is something you've done wrong that no one knows about except you and God, make sure you ask Him to forgive you and cleanse your heart.
- Jesus can forgive all your sins, but first He must be your Lord and Savior. If you've never asked Him to do this, do so today.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Psalm 51:10 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. None of us are perfect. Your players will sin against others. When that happens, encourage them to make things right, first by asking God for forgiveness and then apologizing to the other person.