

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

10-17's

## Sports Devos

Week 4

*...With All Your Soul...*

# ...With All Your Soul...

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** To show the players that loving the Lord is a full commitment that demands all that we are.

## Scripture Passage: Mark 8:32-38

"When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, 'Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. **For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.'" (Memory Verse, Mark 8:36, **in bold**)

## Coaches Guide

So far this year, we have seen the object of our love, the reason for our love, and the obstacle to our love when we try to obey the Lord's command to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Today we are going to look at the extent of our love. In Mark 8, Jesus makes it clear that following Him is not a part-time job. If we plan on loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we had better be prepared to go all in and make a full commitment.

In our passage today, Jesus tells us that following Him requires self-sacrifice. If we want to call ourselves Christians, we had better be ready to give up comfort, status, material possessions, and relationships. God describes Himself in the Bible as a jealous God. He is not willing to split our loyalties with anything or anyone else. This applies not only to other religions, but to anything in life. If our love of money, things, sports, people, entertainment, or even family rivals our love for God, we are not loving Him with all our soul. Our memory verse this week warns that a life spent in pursuit of anything other than God is empty. Even if someone had everything in the world, without Jesus it would not be worth it.

Being a Christian is a free gift. Nothing we do can save ourselves, only Christ can redeem us from sin. However, following Jesus is a full life commitment that will cost us everything. The question that He asks all of us is, are we willing to follow Him with *all* our heart, soul, mind, and strength?

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. Review the last couple of weeks. Why should we love the Lord and what is it that prevents us from doing so?
2. What level of commitment does Jesus ask of us? What does it mean to love Him with all our soul?
3. What is an "idol"? What are some common idols we might have?
4. Have the players take some time for self-reflection. Have they made a full commitment to follow Jesus? Or are there areas they have not yet surrendered to the Lord?

## On the Field

- When we are in the middle of the game, it easy for us to get competitive and let winning become more important than honoring Jesus. Make glorifying Jesus your #1 priority today.
- Your opponents on the field are, more importantly, your brothers and sisters in Christ off the field. Do not allow a soccer game to cause you to forget that helping one another follow Christ and blessing each other is more important.

## Off the Field

- Think of anything in your life right now that you treat as equally or more important than Jesus. Work this week on making Jesus greater than that thing or those people.
- Show that Jesus is the most important person in your life by spending time with Him each day this week in the Bible and prayer.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Romans 6:23. Anyone who can recite it to you will get a ticket for snack stand prizes.
2. Learn and memorize Mark 8:36 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. The focus this week is on putting the Lord first. As you talk to your team this week, encourage not just their performance on the field, but how they honor God with the way they act today.