

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4-9'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.

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** 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**)

### In the Word

Last week, we talked about loving God with all our heart. Does anyone remember why it is difficult to love God with all our heart? (Allow them to answer, or remind them that it is because our hearts are full of sin.)

This week, we will talk about loving Jesus with all of our soul. Our soul includes every part of us. When Jesus asks us to love Him with all our soul, He is calling us to love Him with everything we've got. In Mark 8, Jesus said that following Him with your whole soul means denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Him. Loving God with all your soul means that you are making a full commitment to following Him now. Your life is no longer your own. When we love God with all our soul, obeying Jesus becomes more important than making sure we are happy or comfortable.

Soccer offers us a great example of what it looks like to follow Jesus with all our soul. In soccer, we have to be totally focused on the game in order to play well. If we are thinking about other things, we will be distracted and not be able to help our team. It is only when we are fully focused on soccer that we can play our best. The same way, when our lives are distracted with friends, video games, sports, or toys, we won't be able to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have to be fully focused on Jesus, not ourselves.

Our memory verse today shows why this is important. If we live a life according to the things we want, we may be happy for a little while, but in the end we will feel empty. If we were so rich that we could have everything in

## In the Word (Continued)

the world, but we didn't have Jesus, we would die miserable because we didn't have Jesus. All the treasures in the world are not worth losing Jesus.

Loving Jesus with all our soul means loving Him with everything we've got. There is nothing that should take away our time, energy, and focus from Jesus. Nothing can come between you and Him. Jesus is not out looking for "sometimes followers." He is seeking people who will follow Him all day, every day with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

"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

- 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.

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, 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.