

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 5

Eternal Life

Eternal Life

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 present the Gospel and give the kids a chance to respond and receive eternal life.

Scripture Passage:

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**" Psalm 23:1-6 (verse 6 in bold)

Coaches Guide

In the first 5 verses of Psalm 23, we have looked at what it means for the Lord to be our Shepherd and how that affects our lives here on earth. But today's verse tells us that having Jesus as our Shepherd carries promises not just in this life, but for all eternity.

In Psalm 23:6, David writes that in this life, he knows he will receive God's goodness and mercy because the Lord is his Shepherd. But the promises don't end there. He also says that he will get to dwell in God's house forever! That means that he would get to live with God in heaven, and be there for all eternity. But this promise wasn't just for David. It's for everyone who chooses to follow the Good Shepherd.

So how do we receive this promise of eternal life with God? Before we get to the good news, we need to hear the bad news: we all have sin, and our sin separates us from God. The punishment for our sin is death and eternal separation from God. But God didn't want us to spend eternity separated from Him, so He sent His Son Jesus to save us. Jesus lived a perfect life, but He was accused of crimes He didn't commit and died a criminal's death on the cross. He didn't deserve to be punished because He had no sin, but we did. On the cross, He took our punishment for us. Then, he rose from the dead, defeating death for us. This message is called the Gospel, which means, "Good News." If we believe this news and ask Jesus to forgive our sins and be our Lord and Savior, He will forgive us and we can go to heaven and, like David, we will "dwell in the house of the Lord forever" with Jesus!

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 promises does Psalm 23:6 make for those who make the Lord their Shepherd? What does it mean to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever"?
2. How do you get to go to heaven? Why do I need to be "saved"? What did Jesus do to save us? What do I have to do in response?
3. As a coach, share the story of how you came to know the Lord (your testimony).
4. Is there anyone here who has never asked Jesus to forgive their sins and be their Lord and Savior who would like to do that today?

On the Field

- The hope of spending eternity in heaven is greater than any game of soccer you can play. If things don't go your way on the field today, remember what's truly important.
- While those in this league have heard the Gospel, those of you who play in other leagues may be able to share the good news of Jesus with their unsaved teammates.

Off the Field

- The most important thing anyone can do in life is trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If you've never done that, do so today!
- The message that we can dwell in the house of the Lord forever is one that the whole world needs to hear. Talk about Jesus with any unsaved friends, family, classmates, and neighbors you have.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Psalm 23:5. Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Go over Psalm 23:6 and encourage the kids to learn it on their own.
3. The most important thing we are trying to do today is present the Gospel and give the kids an opportunity to respond. Notify Chris if anyone gives their life to the Lord.