

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 5

Patience

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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.

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 show the kids that patience is enduring in doing the right thing, even when it is difficult.

Scripture Passage:

“Brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord comes. See how the farmer waits for the land to produce its rich crop. See how patient the farmer is for the fall and spring rains.”

James 5:7 (NIRV)

Coaches Guide

When most people think of patience, they think of waiting a long time for something, but biblically, it is something more than that. The New King James uses the word “longsuffering,” which carries the idea of continuing in doing the right thing, even when it is difficult to do so. When you break the word down, it means to enduring to the end (long) in doing right, even when it is difficult (suffering).

James gives the example of a farmer. Patience for a farmer means more than just waiting for crops to grow. The farmer must work hard and endure the difficulties of farming for months as he waits for his crops. The same way, a Christian must do the hard work of continuing to obey God and follow His commands as we await our heavenly reward.

In soccer, we use the word “endurance” as a synonym for patience. When it's late in the game and you're tired, it's hard to run for the ball, but we continue to work hard and endure so that we can earn the reward of a goal. The Christian likewise continues to work hard and do what is right, even when people get under our sin, difficult situations make us want to give up, or temptations try to lead us to sin.

Christian patience specifically means that we continue to do right and obey God when things are tough. It is not simply enough to make it through a difficult circumstance, we must follow God through it. But we also know that, just as the farmer reaps the reward of crops for his patience, God will reward us for our patience.

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 is patience? Is it the same thing as just waiting for a long time for something?
2. The Bible uses the word "longsuffering" for patience. How does that help us understand what patience means?
3. In James 5:7, James uses a farmer to illustrate patience. How does that help us understand what patience is?
4. How is patience similar to endurance in a soccer game?
5. How is Christian patience different from regular patience?

On the Field

- There may be a player on the other team who is constantly pushing you or talking trash. Show patience by continuing to play fairly and not responding back with shoves or insults.
- Teammates, coaches, and refs will all make mistakes. You can be patient with them and not criticize them when they mess up.
- Continue to work hard and do your best, even at the end of the game when you're exhausted.

Off the Field

- Most of us know someone who gets under our skin and makes us want to respond with anger. Patience means continuing to do what is good and right, no matter what others do to you.
- It's not easy being a Christian and keeping God's commands all the time. It takes patience to do what's right and endure, even in the face of temptations and difficult circumstances.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Philippians 4:7. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize James 5:7 (NIRV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Whether it comes through a person or a circumstance, difficulties will come both on and off the soccer field. Emphasize with your team that patience means continuing to do the right thing even when those difficult situations occur.