

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 5

The Duty of All Mankind

The Duty of All Mankind

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 players that we can only find lasting joy and satisfaction in life by following and obeying Christ.

Scripture Passage:

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV)

Coaches Guide

Just as we learned how God wants us to live in Micah 6:8 the last few weeks, the rest of the season we will be looking at Ecclesiastes 12:13.

The book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon. In it, he explains how he searched high and low to find satisfaction in life. He looked for happiness in work, money, pleasure, wisdom, and more, yet no matter what he tried, it all left him empty. In the end, he discovered that only one thing can truly satisfy: fearing God and keeping His commandments. Our memory verse refers to this as “the duty of all mankind.” In other words, God created us so that we will only find satisfaction when following and obeying Him are what's most important to us.

Just like Solomon, people today try to find satisfaction in many different ways. Some people seek riches, power, pleasure, wisdom, or achievement. While these things may provide temporary happiness, we weren't created to find satisfaction in these things. Only a life lived for God, the kind of life we read about in Micah 6:8, can find lasting joy. All of us were created to find satisfaction only in Him.

That doesn't mean that the other things in our lives are bad. Family, school, friends, work, sports, and activities all have an important role to play, but none of them can take the place of Jesus in our lives. He must be our #1 priority. When fearing Him and obeying His commands are what's most important to us, we can enjoy everything else the way God created us to enjoy them.

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 know about the life of King Solomon in the Bible?
2. According to Ecclesiastes 12:13, what's the most important thing in life? What does it mean to "fear God and keep His commandments"?
3. What kinds of things do people do to find joy and satisfaction? What happens to us when these things are what's most important to us? What is the only way to find lasting joy and satisfaction?
4. Does putting God first mean we can't find joy in things like family, friends, or sports? What role should they play in our lives?

On the Field

- Obeying Jesus should be more important than winning. That doesn't mean that winning isn't important or that you shouldn't try to win, but that you don't sacrifice obedience to Christ in order to do that.
- Take devotion time seriously. Soccer is great, but your walk with the Lord is far more important.

Off the Field

- Enjoy the things God gave you, but remember to thank God for them and not let them come between you and the Lord.
- Friends are great, but if you have a friend that's harming your walk with the Lord or tempting you to sin, it's best to end that friendship.
- Popularity can be a huge temptation, but it's more important to do what the Lord says, even if that makes you unpopular.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV) with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. The focus today is on making following and obeying God our #1 priority in everything we do. We will take the next two weeks to look at what "fear God" and "keep His commandments" mean.