

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

**10-17 year olds**

Week 5

*Whatever is Lovely*

# Whatever is Lovely

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 that Jesus' love was active, selfless, and given to the undeserving, and because of that love, we should love others.

## Scripture Passage:

"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

1 John 3:16

## Coaches Guide

The idea behind "whatever is lovely" is not things that look or feel nice (lovely weather, etc.) By "lovely," Paul means something that is full of love. 1 John 3:16 shows us that Jesus and His death on the cross is the ultimate example of love.

In laying down His life for us, Jesus showed that love is active, selfless, and given even to the undeserving. On the cross He loved us not just in word, but in action. He did not put His personal well-being ahead of our need, but gave up His own life to save us. And He didn't die for us because we deserved it, but while we were still sinners He died for us.

The second part of the verse says that since Jesus showed us such great love, we should do the same and lay down our lives for others, especially our fellow believers. That most likely won't actually mean dying for them, but we all can follow Jesus' pattern of love. Like Him, we should love not just in word but in action. We should put others before our own needs and wants. And we should show love even to those who can't or won't show us love in return.

When it's difficult to love others in this way, we should remember not only Christ's example, but that He did it all for you and me. When loving is hard work, you feel that you have to give a lot up, or you aren't receiving love in return, remember how Jesus laid down His life for you while you were still a sinner. If He can do that for us, we can show love to others.

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 does Paul mean by "whatever is lovely"? What is the ultimate example of love?
2. How does Jesus' example show us what love truly is? What does it mean that love is active, selfless, and given to the undeserving?
3. How should we imitate Christ's example of love? What would that look like in our own lives?
4. What should we do when loving someone else is difficult?
5. How do you think loving like Jesus loved would change your soccer team, family, neighborhood, or school?

## On the Field

- Your opponents are still your brothers and sisters in Christ. Play hard, but don't let competition ruin your love for them.
- Love is putting other people's desires above your own. That could mean allowing someone else the chance to play the position you wanted to play today.
- Even if a teammate or opponent is unloving to you, you must still show love to them and forgive them, just as Jesus did for us.

## Off the Field

- Think of something you can do to show a friend or family member how much you love them.
- Jesus shows us incredible love in forgiving us even when we sin. If He could forgive you, you should be able to forgive others even when they sin against us.
- Instead of looking for ways to get what you want, be on the lookout for ways you can love and minister to their needs.

## The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Psalm 51:10 (NIV), "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 John 3:16 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Just as on a team players must put the team's needs before their own, so we as believers must put our brothers and sisters' needs before our own. Emphasize putting others before yourself today.