

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 5

Words that Build

Words that Build

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 look at how our words can be used to either help or hurt the Body of Christ and examine the effects of our speech.

Scripture Passage:

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

Ephesians 4:29

Coaches Guide

This week, we are going to read about an important aspect of our lives: our words. Ephesians 4:29 talks about two different kinds of speech. The first is called corrupt words. These are any kind of sinful speech, such as lies, insults, complaints, gossip, or cursing. The second category is words that are “good for necessary edification.” The word edification means something that builds up, so these refer to words that honor the Lord and bless others, such as truth, encouragement, and thankfulness.

Our body parts have the ability to hurt or help one another. The hand can help the stomach by feeding it or hurt it by punching it. The same way, our words have the ability either to help or harm our fellow believers and our teammates. Edifying speech like encouragement, truth, and thankfulness build others up and make them feel good, while corrupt speech such as lies and insults do harm to others.

When one part of the body is hurting, it affects the whole body. Likewise, when we use sinful speech, it hurts not just the person we speak to, but ourselves and those around us. For example, lies will cause others not to trust us. Insults or gossip can ruin friendships. At the same time, when we use our words for good, everyone is blessed. Encouraging a teammate will help them play better, which will benefit the whole team. Giving thanks lets people know they are appreciated, and so they will continue to bless others. Words are powerful and can be used either for good or evil. Let's use them for good!

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 two types of speech does Ephesians 4:29 describe? What does "corrupt speech" or "good for necessary edification" mean? What are some examples of good and bad speech?
2. Our different body parts have the ability to help or hurt one another. How are our words similar? Do our words only help or hurt the person we speak to, or do they affect others?
3. How can sinful words hurt the Church or our teammates? How can edifying words help others?
4. Share a time you were helped or hurt by someone's words or when you helped or hurt someone else with your words.

On the Field

- In sports, we can be tempted to trash-talk our opponents, or criticize the ref. Instead, use your words to uplift others.
- Be sure to thank the volunteers (refs, coaches, snack stand helpers) that make this league possible.
- Discouraging teammates when they make a mistake will hurt the whole team, but cheering them on and encouraging them will help them play better.

Off the Field

- Be honest in all situations and tell the whole truth, not half-lies or exaggerations.
- Look for ways you can encourage people this week.
- Thank your parents or guardians for all they do for you.
- The most important thing you can do with your words is tell others about Jesus. Think of someone you know who doesn't believe in Christ and share the Gospel with them.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, Colossians 3:13 Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:29 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Teaching the players to use godly speech begins with your example. Make sure that you used your words in a God-honoring way, and emphasize the importance of how we talk in today's game.