

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week

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.

Here is where we will discuss today's passage with the players. This can be read off the page or summarized and explained in the coach's own words.

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

In the Word

All season, we have learned about what it means to be part of the Body of Christ and seen how our team is like a smaller version of that Body. We have talked about ways we can love one another and how to forgive each other. Today, we will learn about something that can either help or hurt our fellow members of the Body: our words.

In Ephesians 4:29, we read about two different kinds of words. The first kind is called “corrupt words.” Corrupt words are any kind of sinful speech that hurts others and does not honor the Lord. The other kind of speech is good, or edifying, words. The word “edify” means to build something up, so edifying speech is anything that blesses or helps others (builds them up) and pleases God.

Our different body parts have the ability either to hurt or help one another. My hand can make my stomach feel good by giving it food, or bad by punching it. The same way, our words can either help or hurt other believers in the Body of Christ. And just as one body part feeling good or bad affects the whole body, so too our words can affect not just the person we speak to, but everyone around us. When we use sinful words against a teammate or fellow Christian, we hurt not only that person, but the whole team or Church. But when we use good speech, it blesses the person we speak to, those around us, and even ourselves.

So what kind of speech hurts others? When we lie, we might trick people into bad situations and cause them not to trust us. Complaining

In the Word (Continued)

can make the people around us ungrateful and cause those who give to us feel like we don't appreciate them and that they shouldn't give to us. Bad words can get us into trouble. Trash-talking, making fun of someone, or gossip can hurt someone's feelings and break friendships. As we can see, sinful speech hurts everyone.

Good speech, on the other hand, is a blessing. Telling the truth can help people and cause them to trust us. Encouraging someone can make that person feel good and want to encourage you back. Thanking someone shows them that you appreciate what they do for you. And of course, the greatest thing we can do with our words is tell others about Jesus, which could lead to their eternal life. Our words are powerful, whether they are used for good or evil. Let's use them for Jesus!

"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.

On the Field

- In sports we can be tempted to make fun of our opponents or yell at our teammates when they make a mistake, but the godly thing to do is use our words to encourage.
- Appreciate the volunteers who make soccer possible (coaches, refs, snack stand people) and thank them.
- When you are on the bench, cheering for your teammates is a great way to encourage them and help the whole team play better.

Off the Field

- Sometimes telling the truth is hard, but in the end it's always worth it. Make sure to tell the truth in all situations.
- Make sure to thank your parents for all they do for you.
- Look out for people who need encouragement this week.
- 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 God's love with them.

These are some final notes/goals to accomplish this week. These are not meant to be read, but are instructions for the coach.

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.