

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 6

Compassion

Compassion

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 teach the players how we as believers come alongside others in both joy and pain to show compassion.

Scripture Passage:

"And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."

1 Corinthians 12:26

In the Word

Think back to how you felt after our last game. Were you happy that we won? Sad that we lost? Excited that you scored a goal? Disappointed that you didn't? How you felt probably had a lot to do with what you and your team did. You might not have thought much about how other players or teams did, because it's always easier to think about how you feel than how others feel, especially in sports. But as members of the Body of Christ, we are not supposed to care only about ourselves or how we feel. We are supposed to have compassion.

In 1 Corinthians 12:26, we read about another part of being in the Body of Christ. In a body, when one part is in pain, the rest hurts too. When you are sick in your stomach, your legs don't feel like walking, your throat feels sore, and your whole body feels tired. According to our verse, the Body of Christ works the same way. When something bad happens to another Christian or a teammate, we shouldn't think, "Not my problem! Good thing it didn't happen to me." They are part of the Body, so what makes them sad should make us sad too. When someone is upset, we should be with them and comfort them. That's called compassion.

On the other hand, something that feels nice for one part makes the rest of the body feel good too. Dipping your feet in cold water on a hot day refreshes the whole body. The same way, when something good happens to a fellow member of the Body of Christ, we should celebrate with them. We shouldn't be jealous when our friends get nice things or wish a good

In the Word (Continued)

thing happened to us and not them. We should be excited for them and celebrate with them.

Compassion can be hard. When others are hurting, we don't want hurt too. When something good happens to someone else, it's easy to be jealous and wish we had gotten that nice thing instead. And of course in sports, the last thing we want to think about when we win or lose is how the other team feels. What we need to remember is that we are all part of the same Body of Christ. Their pain is our pain. Their joy is our joy. It's ok to be joyful or disappointed when good or bad things happen to us, but we should always consider not just our own feelings, but the feelings of others. We may wear different uniforms, but both we and our opponents are part of the same team, the Body of Christ.

"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

- If you win, think about how the other team feels. Don't rub it in, but instead try to comfort them.
- If you lose, be happy for the other team and congratulate them on a job well done.
- When your teammate scores a goal, don't be upset that it wasn't you who scored. Celebrate with them.
- Look out for other players who might have had a tough week and need some compassion and comfort.

Off the Field

- Do you have a friend going through a hard time? Spend some time with them and try to comfort them.
- When something good happens to someone else, we may be tempted to get jealous. Instead, be excited for them.
- In all situations, consider others' feelings, not just your own.

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, Ephesians 4:29. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize 1 Corinthians 12:26 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Learning how to win and lose graciously is important. Whatever the outcome, teach your team to consider others, not just themselves.