

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SOCCER DEVOTIONS

10-17 year olds

Week 6

Kindness and Goodness

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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 encourage the players to show kindness and goodness to those who are unkind to them, with Christ as our example.

Scripture Passage:

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. **And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**”

Ephesians 4:31-32 (Memory verse, Ephesians 4:32, **in bold**)

Coaches Guide

Today we will look at kindness and goodness together. We all know what these two things look like. The hard part is putting it into practice. It is easy to show kindness to those who are nice to us, but when we are mistreated, our natural reaction is to respond with the things listed in Ephesians 4:31. We want to lash out in anger and respond with our own unkind words and actions. But Christian kindness and goodness does not mean only being kind to those who deserve it. Ephesians 4:32 says that we must instead be kind, compassionate, and forgiving even to those who are mean to us.

The connection between kindness and forgiveness is important. We cannot truly be kind to someone who has been unkind to us unless we have forgiven them. We can try to act nice, but there will never be true kindness without forgiveness. In fact, we must forgive them even if they have not apologized to us.

The reason we can and must be kind to others is found in the last part of verse 32. It may not be easy to show kindness to those who are unkind to us, but we can and should because that's what Christ did for us. Christ showed us kindness and forgave us even as we were sinning and showing Him unkindness by rebelling against God. He was even forgiving the people who were crucifying Him as He was on the cross. If Christ was able to show us kindness and forgive our sins while we were sinning against Him, we ought to show kindness to those who are unkind to us.

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 are kindness and goodness? How do we show them? Who are we supposed to be unkind to?
2. What is our natural reaction when others are unkind to us? What does Ephesians 4:32 say we should do instead?
3. What does forgiveness have to do with kindness? Do we have to forgive people in order to be kind to them?
4. Why should we be kind to those who are unkind to us?

On the Field

- Don't joke around and make fun of teammates or opponents. Instead, use your words to encourage.
- If a teammate, opponent, coach, or ref has been unkind to you, forgive that person and treat them with kindness.
- Kind soccer acts can include helping up a fallen player, giving teammates a chance to have the ball, or comforting a player who is upset.

Off the Field

- Most of us know someone who is regularly unkind to us. This week, try to forgive that person even if they don't apologize to you for their unkindness.
- Look for opportunities to show kindness this week. Use kind words to encourage others and kind actions to help others.
- Share the message of how the Lord showed us kindness and forgave us to someone who does not know Jesus.

The Game Plan

1. Review last week's memory verse, James 5:7 (NIRV). Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Ephesians 4:32 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Take note of acts of kindness your players show before, during, and after the game. Talk to your team after the game and point out to everyone the things you saw.