

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 6

Whatever is Admirable

Whatever is Admirable

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 kids that we want admirable character so that we can point others to Jesus.

Scripture Passage:

"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold."

Proverbs 22:1

In the Word

Next on our Philippians 4:8 list is, "whatever is admirable." The word "admirable" refers to something or someone that people have good things to say about. Many of us can think of one or more people that we admire. It could be someone close to us that we look up to, or perhaps someone talented and famous for some skill, strength, or wisdom they have. When people hear the name of someone they admire, they usually say good things about them.

What about you? When people hear your name, what do they say? Hopefully they say something good, such as, "Joe is such a nice person!", or, "Susie is a great athlete!", or, "Billy is really funny!" The way people talk about us when they hear our name says a lot about who we are and what they admire (or don't admire) about us.

Did you know that the Bible has something to say about our names? Proverbs 22:1 says that a good name is better than great riches. This verse isn't talking about having a cool-sounding name, but what people say when they think about you. As Christians, we should be admirable not just for how smart, strong, fast, or skilled we are, but for our godly character. When people hear our names, they should think about how kind we are to others, how we love one another, and how much we know about our Bibles. When other people notice our godly character, that's being admirable, and according to our memory verse, that's even better than having a lot of money.

In the Word (Continued)

The reason we want to be admirable is not to get glory for ourselves, but to give glory to God. When someone says good things about us, whether it's about our godly character or a skill or talent that we have, we can't take all the credit and say, "That's right, I am pretty great!" Instead, we should thank the Lord for giving us that gift and give the praise to Him. When other people see that your character comes from the Lord, it could make them want to follow the Lord too and may even cause them to become a Christian. If that sounds like something you want, pray and ask the Lord to give you character that people will admire. Make sure to live the way we've talked about this year at all times and do what God wants, even when no one is watching. Then, when people admire your godly character, give the glory to God.

"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

- You may be admired for a great play you make on the field today. Instead of taking that glory for yourself, thank God for giving you the ability to make that play.
- Your first priority should be to be admired not for your soccer skills, but your godly character. Make that a goal today.
- Some of you are leaders on your team that other players look up to. If you are a leader, use that leadership to point your teammates to Jesus.

Off the Field

- We all have gifts and talents. When you are recognized for one of these, give thanks to the Lord for giving you that gift.
- The kind of character others admire is a person who does right even when no one is watching. Do something good this week that no one except you and God will know about.
- When others admire you, use it as an opportunity to tell others about Jesus.

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, 1 John 3:16, "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." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Proverbs 22:1 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Emphasize this week that you want your team to be admired first and foremost for their godly character.
4. Whenever your team or players are recognized this week, encourage them to give God the glory.