

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 7

Faith

Faith

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 that faith is living like God's Word is true, even if our circumstances seem to tell us otherwise.

Scripture Passage:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen... But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11:1, 6 (memory verse, Hebrews 11:1, in **bold**)

In the Word

What is faith? When we think of faith, the seventh fruit of the Spirit, we usually picture Moses parting the Red Sea or David beating Goliath. But faith isn't about just the big and miraculous. In Hebrews 11, we are told that faith was behind Abel offering a sacrifice to the Lord and Isaac blessing his two sons. Faith is trusting that what God says is true and living in obedience to His Word, even when it looks like following Him is the wrong decision.

Hebrews 11:1 says that faith trusts in things we might not be able to see. There may be times when it may seem easier to do what we want instead of what God wants, but faith means trusting that God's Word is true anyway. Verse 6 then tells us that in order to have faith, we need to trust God in two ways. First, we must trust that He (and His Word) is true. After all, it would be silly to obey God's Word if He didn't exist or if what it said were false. Second, we need to believe that God will reward us for our obedience to Him. Just because we believe something is true doesn't mean we will always live by it. We might believe that candy is bad for us, but many of us still eat it because we don't think giving up candy is worth it. In order to have faith, we must believe not only that God's Word is true, but that obeying it will be worth it and God will reward us for it.

In the Word (Continued)

As Christians, we first show faith when we trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior, but there are many other situations we face that require faith. We might not have to slay a giant or lead people out of Egypt, but there are plenty of ways we can show faith today. It takes faith to live for Jesus and obey His Word even though you've never seen Him, or to tell your unsaved friends at school about Jesus even though it may be against school rules. In both situations, it might seem like disobeying God and doing what we want is the better choice, but by faith we trust that it is better for us to obey God. When we live by faith, we live like God's Word is true, even if our situation makes it seem like it's untrue. By faith, we obey God's Word no matter what, knowing that God will be pleased.

"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

- God cares about whether or not we play soccer kindly, lovingly, and fairly. It might not always seem worth it to practice good sportsmanship, especially when it seems like we can get away with pushing or insulting an opponent, but by faith we know that God sees and we should choose to do right.
- In faith, we believe that how we honor God on the field is more important than whether our team wins or loses.

Off the Field

- When we go through hard times, it takes faith to continue to worship God and trust that He will bring us through it.
- It takes faith to stand up for Jesus and obey what He says when those around you don't believe in Him and are doing things you know are wrong.
- By faith we give our lives to God and live to please Him rather than live for ourselves and do what we want to do.

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 4:32. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Hebrews 11:1 with your team. Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Our first act of faith is our trust in Jesus Christ. Offer an opportunity for those who have never put their faith in Him to do so today.