

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Week 7

Keep His Commandments

Keep His Commandments

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 keep God's commandments by loving Him with all we are and loving others as ourselves.

Scripture Passage:

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:30-31 (players should memorize the **bold** portions)

In the Word

In soccer, there are a lot of rules to follow. Who can name some? (No pushing, no hands, etc.) It's important to follow the rules in soccer so that we can all have a safe, fun, and fair game. But the rules of soccer are not the only rules we need to follow. As we learned in Ecclesiastes 12:13 a couple of weeks ago, God wants us to keep His commandments (rules).

Now the Bible gives many rules for God's people to follow. It has rules about how to treat others, how to worship God, and even what back in Bible times people could eat. In fact, there are over 600 rules just in the Old Testament. You might be thinking, “That's a lot of rules! How am I supposed to remember and obey so many?”

The good news is that Jesus made it simple for us. One day, a man asked Him which rule was the most important one. His answer is what we read in today's memory verse: love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. A simple way to put this is that we need to love God and love other people. Jesus said that these are the most important commandments, not because the other rules don't matter, but because when we are loving God and loving other people, we will naturally be obeying the rest of God's rules.

Loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength means that God must be the most important Person in our whole lives —more than toys, video games, friends, or even family. God doesn't want us to love, worship, and obey Him only some of the time. He wants every part of us.

In the Word (Continued)

Loving our neighbor as ourselves means treating people the way you would want them to treat you. We usually know how to make ourselves happy. We should work just as hard to say and do things to make our neighbors happy too. Now by neighbor, the Bible isn't just talking about the people who live in the house next to yours (although they are certainly included). Your neighbor is everyone you meet — friends, family, classmates, even the people you don't get along with. The Bible tells us to love them all. Loving others doesn't just mean being nice when it's easy or convenient. Real love does what's best for others even if it's hard, it costs you something, or the other person is unkind. When we are loving God and loving other people, we will end up keeping the rest of God's rules as well.

"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

- There may be players on your team or the other team that you don't get along with. Treat them the way you want to be treated, even if they don't treat you the same way.
- You want and expect the other team to play fairly, so you should play fairly.
- Before you speak to an opponent or the referee, think about what you're going to say. Is this something you would want them to say to you?

Off the Field

- Is there anything or anyone more important to you than God? Make sure God is getting your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- What is something you wish other people would do for you? Do that for someone else this week.
- Loving your neighbor includes not just your friends, but those you don't get along with. Look for ways to show love to someone difficult this week.

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, Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Give a ticket to anyone who can recite it.
2. Learn and memorize Mark 12:30-31 with your team (players only need to learn the parts in bold on the previous page). Encourage them to practice the verse over the week.
3. Both of the commandments we looked at today have to do with love. If time permits, talk about what love really means according to the Bible.