

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SOCCER DEVOTIONS

4-9 year olds

Study 8

Christ the Head

Christ the Head

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 present the Gospel by showing the kids their need to be connected to Jesus, the Head of the Body of Christ.

Scripture Passage:

"And He [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:18

In the Word

All season we have been learning about the Body of Christ. We have seen how all the different Christians are like different body parts coming together to form one body, the Church. We also looked at how our team is like a smaller version of that Body. In this example, we are like the arms, legs, hands, and feet of the Body. But do you know who the Head is?

The Head of the Body of Christ is not someone rich or powerful, like the president or a millionaire. It isn't your pastor or priest either. The Head of the Body of Christ is Jesus Himself, as we read in Colossians 1:18. In a body, while all the parts are important, you can't live without your head. In your head is your brain, which controls the rest of the body. The same way, Jesus is in charge of and gives life to the rest of the Body. Without Him, the Body of Christ is a lifeless body.

Maybe some of you here do not know Jesus and have never asked Him to be your Savior. The Bible says that without Jesus, no one has life. Now you might be thinking, "Well I'm not a Christian, but I'm living and breathing just fine." But the Bible isn't talking about that kind of life. Jesus came to offer us eternal life with Him forever. Without Him, we will spend eternity separated from God when we die.

So then how do we get this eternal life? Just as the rest of the body must be connected to the head in order to live, we must be connected to Jesus. But there is something that separates us: our sins. When we do things God's Word says is wrong, we are separated from God. But Jesus

In the Word (Continued)

came to earth and took the punishment for our sins by dying for us. He took the punishment we deserve so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be “re-connected” to Him. To have our sins forgiven, we must ask Jesus to forgive our sins and be our Lord and Savior. That means Jesus is our Head. He gets to decide what we do and how we live.

Maybe this all sounded good until the last part, but you don’t want Jesus to be your Head. You want to be in control of your own life. Or maybe some of you are Christians, but are living like you, not Jesus, are in charge of your own life. But the Bible says that the only way to be saved and connected to God is if Jesus is your Head, the ruler of all your life. The good news is that Jesus is a good King who rules us with love. He knows and does what’s best for us, so we should want Him to be our Head.

“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 Jesus is our Head, we should play for Him, not ourselves. Play in a way that would make Jesus happy.
- Some teammates, opponents, or people watching the game might not be Christians. Look for chances to share about Jesus, even at the soccer field.

Off the Field

- The most important thing any of us could ever do is ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. If you haven’t done that before, do it today.
- It’s important not just for you, but everyone you know to make Jesus their Head. Tell a friend, neighbor, or family member about Him.
- If Jesus is our Head, obeying Him should be more important to us than doing the things that we want.

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, Luke 6:31. Give a ticket to any player who can recite it.
2. Since this is the last week, there is no memory verse.
3. The most important thing we want to do this week is present the Gospel and offer the kids a chance to make Jesus their Lord and Savior. Consider sharing the story of how you came to know Jesus.