

TEAM DEVOTIONALS

This season for our half-time practice devotionals will be going through Colossians 3:12-13. We want to make this a discussion, not a time for the coach just to talk or preach to the team. Ask the questions and wait for answers even if it is silent for a long amount of time. You will notice that we are doing the Gospel on week 2 and 10. We want every player to have a chance to accept Jesus this season.

Week 1- Central Sports Soccer

Get to know your team:

- During your devotion time, do everything you can to get to know your team better. Introduce yourself and tell them your background in soccer, why you are coaching the team, and why you are excited to be their coach.
- Learn the kids' names and have all of the kids learn each other's names.
- A game that I have found helpful involves children creating an adjective to describe themselves that begins with the first letter of their name.
 - My name is Luke. I am likeable Luke
 - Everyone on the team says "Hi, Likeable Luke"
 - Go around the circle and do that with each player.
 - Start with yourself. This establishes what they should call you during the season. Whether you want them to call you Coach Jones or Coach Luke (Full name is Luke Jones).
 - After each player has gone go back around, have the entire team say everyone's name.
- Pray

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 2 – Central Sports Soccer

This soccer season we will be studying Colossians 3:12-16. We want to emphasize what each of these traits mean to you and how knowing Christ will change your life forever.

This week we will not focus on those verses but more on what Christ did so we can allow him to work those traits in our lives.

- 1) How many of you know who Jesus is?
 - (If no answer tell them the information below)
 - (If the correct answer is given, expand with the information below)
 - Jesus was God; he was with God in the beginning and is with God now.
 - Jesus was God's son and came from heaven to live on this earth to show each of us how to live.
- 2) How many of you know what happened to Jesus?
 - (If no answer tell them the information below)
 - (If the correct answer is given, expand with the information below)
 - Jesus was arrested for just simply saying he was God.
 - Jesus had been traveling around proclaiming God's truth and it bothered people. He told them of their sin, that they needed to repent, and told them he would be the sacrifice for their sin.
- 3) How many of you know happened to him after he was arrested?
 - (If no answer tell them the information below)
 - (If the correct answer is given, expand with the information below)
 - He was beaten, mocked, spit on and ultimately hung on a cross as a punishment. They thought they were punishing him for claiming to be God, but were actually fulfilling a promise God made that His Son would die on a cross for the sins of the world.
- 4) Does anyone know what happened next?
 - (If no answer tell them the information below)
 - (If the correct answer is given, expand with the information below)
 - Three days after his death and burial, he rose again and was seen by many people before he eventually rose to heaven to be with his father.
- 5) Does anyone know what a sin is or what does it mean?
 - (If no answer tell them the information below)
 - (If the correct answer is given, expand with the information below)
 - A sin is to disobey God.
 - Disobeying your parents is a sin. Lying is a sin. Being prideful is a sin. Hurting someone intentionally is a sin.
 - The only way we get forgiveness from God for those sins is to believe the story I just told you about Jesus and to ask Him for forgiveness.

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 2 – Central Sports Soccer (cont'd)

The great part of all this is that He died for us without expecting anything in return. All He asks is that you believe.

Let's pray – all heads bowed and all eyes closed.

If you haven't already made that decision, I ask that you repeat after me out loud or in your heart.

- Father, I thank you for sending your son. I believe He is who He said He is. I believe that you died, rose and went back to heaven. I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness. I ask you to fill my heart and forgive me of my sins – Amen.

Before you open your eyes, if you prayed that for the first time and truly believe it, raise your hand.

(If anyone does, get their name to Central Sports immediately!)

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 3- Central Sports Soccer

Colossians 3:12

- Read vs 12
 - “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

As we talked the Gospel last week some of you have already accepted Jesus into your heart, some of you did that last week and some of you are still working through what that means. In this verse, God is talking to those who have accepted Jesus.

He calls us holy and beloved because that is what we are if we are in the family of God; HOLY and BELOVED.

As Christians, we are to have a heart of compassion.

Does anyone know what compassion means?

- (wait for answers, if correct affirm, if incorrect say “OK” and move to the next person answering.)
- It means to have concern or sympathy for others in the suffering or distress. Like when a friend tells you their mom is sick, you feel bad for them and want them to know you are there to help.

If we are Christians, we are to have compassion – always. We aren’t just to have it at times, it is who we are; we are to be compassionate people.

Who has a prayer request for someone who is hurting so we can be compassionate and pray for them?

- Pray

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 4- Central Sports Soccer

Colossians 3:12

- Read vs 12
 - “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Last week we talked about compassion and being people who were compassionate. Today we will talk about the next word, kindness.

God tells us that as Christians we are to be kind and display kindness.

What does it mean to be “kind”?

- (wait for answers, if correct affirm, if incorrect say “OK” and move to the next person answering.)
- Kind means showing loving affection, sympathy, and friendliness. Kindness is a quality shown in the way a person speaks and acts. It is not an emotion.

So to be kind to someone goes along with having compassion by showing sympathy and relating to what they are going through.

We show kindness to someone by being their friend. We show that kindness by how we speak to them and how we treat them. It is not feeling sorry for them, it is being there when they need us.

How do you think we can show kindness to each other the rest of practice today?

- (wait for answers)

We can show kindness to each other by encouraging each other, by helping a teammate up if they fall down, tell them if its ok if they did a drill wrong and encouraging them to keep trying.

Ask for prayer requests.

- Pray

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 5- Central Sports Soccer

Colossians 3:12

- Read vs 12
 - “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

The last 2 weeks we have talked about compassion and kindness. Today we are going to talk about humility. Humility is connected to them because you can't do the first two without humility.

The Bible tells us in Philippians chapter 2 to do nothing out of self-interest and to consider others better than ourselves. The only way we can do that is through humility.

Does anyone know what humility or being humble means?

- (wait for answers, if correct affirm, if incorrect say “OK” and move to the next person answering.)

Humility or being humble means “a modest or low view of one's own importance”.

So we are to have a low view of ourselves in terms of others. We are to love ourselves as commanded in the Bible but to have a higher view of other people. This mean we are to love others more than ourselves. We are to look to serve other people not just ourselves.

This plays out on the soccer field as well. We want to win games and score many goals, but we should want all of our teammates to score not just yourself. Also, we should not think we are better people than our opponent. It actually means we view our opponent more highly than we view ourselves. If we do that, we will act accordingly in sportsmanship, compassion and kindness before, during and after the game.

It should also relate to how we treat everyone in our lives: friends, parents, teachers, coaches.

Ask for prayer requests.

- Pray

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 6- Central Sports Soccer

Colossians 3:12

- Read vs 12
 - “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Anyone want to guess what we are talking about this week?

- That’s right – gentleness.

Does anyone know what gentleness means?

- (wait for answers, if correct affirm, if incorrect say “OK” and move to the next person answering.)
- The word can also be translated as meekness; does anyone know what that means?
 - (wait for answers, if correct affirm, if incorrect say “OK” and move to the next person answering.)
 - Meekness is an inward attitude while gentleness is outward attitude

Together, these mean that we are to have a heart for people that results in action towards them. We are to love them internally first then we will have action toward them in humility to meet their needs and show compassion and kindness

What are some ways we show meekness / gentleness to our teammates and the other team?

- We can show this by helping them be better players. Instead of getting upset with them or speaking in anger we encourage them and do what we can to help them become better players. Instead of pointing out their wrongs we show them the right way.

Ask for pray requests.

- Pray

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 7- Central Sports Soccer

Colossians 3:12

- Read vs 12
 - “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

The final thing we are to put on in this verse is patience. This can be the hardest one for some of us to do but really binds this all together.

Does anyone know what patience means?

- (wait for answers, if correct affirm, if incorrect say “OK” and move to the next person answering.)
- Most would describe patience as calmly waiting, but it is so much more than that. Biblical patience is a God-exercised, or God-given, restraint in face of opposition or oppression. That means the we don’t act out when we are wronged by someone else.

We are not the ones in control, God is. We have to wait on Him to bring his plan together. We don’t do that well. We want what we want when we want it. What makes patience harder is that we can’t do it on our own. We have to have God working in us for us to be patient.

We all want to be in the game, we all want to score a goal, we all want certain things from mom and dad, but it may not be what God wants for us. We have to let Him give things to us that He wants us to have.

We have to learn how to wait on God and allow God to move in us and for us instead of reacting when things don’t go the way we want or we aren’t given something on our timetable.

Tell me about a time when you weren’t patient with a family member or teammate.

- What would have been the patient way of handling that?

Ask for prayer requests.

- Pray

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 8- Central Sports Soccer

Colossian 3:13

- "...bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone just as the lord forgave you, so should you."

We have looked at all the things we are to put on and in verse 13 God shows us how we put all those things together.

He says to bear with one another. Strange little phrase, anyone know what that means?

- (wait for answers, if correct affirm, if incorrect say "OK" and move to the next person answering.)
- It means to support each other, to stand with each other. In the Biblical sense, it means to stand arm and arm with fellow believers and to support them as they follow Jesus.

As believers, there will be times when we need to be lifted up by other people. When things aren't going the way we want and we begin to doubt God, we need these believers to come along side us and to build us up, to support us.

Just as the pavilion on this field has 6 beams of support holding it up, that is exactly what we need for each other to keep us going sometime. Without them we might literally fall.

There is a story in the Old Testament when the Israelites were at war and were losing. Their leader, Moses, but up his hands they started to win. As he grew tired he couldn't hold his arms up anymore (put your arms up as signaling at touchdown and then slowing bring them down). Two people came and lifted up his arms so that they would win.

Who in your life supports you or bears with you?

- (wait for answers)

Ask for prayer requests.

- Pray

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 9- Central Sports Soccer

Colossian 3:13

- "...bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone just as the lord forgave you, so should you."

As we support each other and hold each other up, one big step in that is to forgive each other. Can you tell me what it means to forgive?

- (wait for answers, if correct affirm, if incorrect say "OK" and move to the next person answering.)
- To forgive means to allow room for error.

Who would like to share a time when someone has done something you didn't like or wronged you?

- (let 3-4 share)

Did you forgive them?

- (wait for those that shared to answer)

We are commanded to forgive each other, we don't really have a choice in the matter if we are a follower of Jesus; he told us to forgive.

People are going to let us down and do wrong this to us. Some do this by accident and some do this on purpose. The point is that no one is perfect. They will make mistakes and we WILL need to forgive them. Guess what? You are going to let other people down and wrong them as well.

Who would like to share a time when you have done something to someone they didn't like or wronged someone?

- (allow 1-2 different people from before to share)

Did they forgive you?

- (wait for those who shared to answer)

Every one of us has wronged Jesus, but by His grace and mercy, He forgave us. The Bible tells us that we are to forgive because while we were in sin He forgave us.

How can we not forgive someone who has wronged us when God has already forgiven us?

Ask for pray requests.

- Pray

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TEAM DEVOTIONALS (CONT'D)

Week 10- Central Sports Soccer

Colossian 3:13

- "...bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone just as the lord forgave you, so should you."

We touched on it briefly last week but the Lord forgives you. There is only thing you can do that is unforgiveable, just one. Everything else He can and will forgive you. No matter how many times you disobey your parents – you should never do that. No matter how many times you don't respect your teacher or coach by not doing what they ask – you should never do that. No matter how many times you annoy your brother or sister or friend – you shouldn't do that either.

No matter what you do, you will be forgiven except one thing.

The one thing that is unforgiveable is not accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Everything He forgives, but He can't forgive that. He is so Holy and Perfect that he can't be around unholy and imperfect things. When you accept him as Lord and Savior you are made holy and perfect. That is the only way you are made holy and perfect.

If we don't accept him as Lord and Savior, we are imperfect and unholy and we can't be with him.

He forgive us of all things except that. We sin against him all the time but he forgives us anyway. The only way to be forgiven of all things is to accept him as Savior.

Let's pray – all heads bowed and all eyes closed.

If you haven't already made that decision I ask that you repeat after me out loud or in your heart.

- Father, I thank you for sending you son, I believe He is who He said He is, I believe that you died, rose and went back to heaven, I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness, I ask you to fill my heart and forgive me of my sins – Amen

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