

REACH FORTH

Sports played. Lives changed.

YOUTH SOCCER:

2018 U8-U14 Devotional Outline

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

Gal. 5: 22-25

WEEK 1

Week of May 28

WELCOME

Welcome to a new season of Reach Forth soccer! I hope you are excited for a fun time together. Each week, at the end of the game one of your coaches is going to share a short talk with you. For a few minutes, they will talk about something that is very special to them and that is their faith in Jesus and how the Bible says God loves each and every one of us. Each week they will share a verse or two from the Bible and talk about how it shows us how God made us to live. If you don't believe in God that is ok! All we ask during this time is that you listen respectfully and think about what your coach has to share with you. If you ever have questions after the talk you can always ask your coach, they will be more than happy to talk to you more about it!

WEEK 2

Week of June 4

The Fruit of the Spirit is LOVE

Me and We.

Have you ever noticed all the different kinds of trees growing outside? There are oak trees, maple trees, willow trees, chestnut trees and many different fruit trees. And do you know how you can tell that a fruit tree is healthy? It's when that tree produces fruit! You know an apple tree is healthy because it grows plump, delicious apples! You know a pear tree is healthy because it produces tasty pears and you know that a peach tree is healthy because it grows juicy peaches.

The Bible talks about a different kind of fruit and that is the fruit of the spirit. The fruit of the spirit is NOT an apple, peach, pear or even a banana! The fruit of the spirit are signs that a person is living in accord with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. If someone says they belong to Christ Jesus, it should look like it. People should be able to notice.

The very first "fruit of the spirit" is LOVE. When someone says they belong to Jesus, they produce LOVE in their life.

What do you think love is? Who do you love?

God:

The Bible gives a very clear description of love in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a: **"...love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...." (NIV)**

You:

Here is a challenge for you this week: show love to God and those around you! How? Tell God how much you love him when you are praying to Him and thank Him for your day. Be nice to your classmates. Compliment your friends. Thank your teacher or coach for helping you. Be kind and patient with your siblings. Show respect and honour to your parents.

WEEK 3

Week of June 11

The Fruit of the Spirit is JOY

Me & We:

Last week, we began talking about the first Fruit of the Spirit being LOVE. We learned God wants us to love God and other people. Today we are going to talk about a new Fruit of the Spirit and that is JOY. The dictionary says that **JOY is a feeling of great pleasure**. Maybe you feel JOY when you get a good mark on a test that you studied

hard for. Maybe you feel JOY when you score a goal in soccer or your team wins a game. Maybe you feel JOY when your family goes on a vacation. What brings you JOY?

God:

A great source of JOY is knowing that God is taking care of you and me. He's got the whole world in His hands and in His care. We can trust in God. In the Bible we read:

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my hearts trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for JOY, and with my song I praise him." Psalm 28: 7 (NIV)

You:

Did you know that even if you aren't happy, you can have JOY? You can have JOY because you know that God is taking care of you and you can trust in Him. God loves you so much and He has a plan for every single one of you. **Here is a challenge for you this week:** even if things don't go exactly as you want them to, show JOY. Even if you lose your soccer game or have a bad day at school, trust that God is taking care of you and let that confidence give you great JOY.

WEEK 4

Week of June 18

The Fruit of the Spirit is PEACE

Me & We:

Do you ever argue or fight with other people? When I was growing up, I would sometimes argue and fight with my little brother. Then, my parents would march into the room and tell us to stop fighting because they wanted to have some peace and quiet in the house! Did you know that ever since sin came into this world, it is a place where people fight? People argue, dispute, war, and disagree. In soccer, you might argue with a call that the referee made; you might fight with the other team about whether a goal went in or not; you might disagree with your coach or a fellow team-mate about something. Today's fruit of the spirit is PEACE and **PEACE is freedom from fighting. PEACE is quiet and calm.**

God:

God is a God of peace. In the Bible, God tells us to **"Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone." Romans 12: 18 (NLT).** That means that God wants us to work very hard to get along with other people instead of fighting with them. This isn't easy especially if you feel that someone has done something wrong or mean to you. God

knows this but He wants us to let Him do the judging and the punishing. You and I need to do all that we can to live in peace with others!

You:

Here is your challenge for this week: keep the peace! If you disagree with someone, calm down by silently counting to 10 before answering. Try to walk away rather than getting into an argument with your siblings. Talk gently and kindly to others. Do all that you can to keep the peace.

WEEK 5

Week of June 25

The fruit of the spirit is PATIENCE

Me & We:

Do you like waiting for things? Do you like waiting in long line-ups for your favourite ride at the Fall Fair? Do you like waiting in the side-lines of a soccer game for your turn to play? Do you like waiting with your hand in the air for your teacher to answer your question? I don't know about you, but most people do NOT like waiting. Waiting means you need to be patient and that is very hard. Most people want to take action and make things happen. It's not easy to be patient and wait for God's timing.

God:

In the Bible, there is a story about a man who had to be super patient. This guy didn't play soccer but he was an expert shepherd and poet. He could also play the lyre (a mini harp) beautifully. His name was David and God chose him to be the next king of Israel. There was a problem with this, though, since there already was a king named Saul and Saul was not happy with the idea of David taking over his kingdom! In fact, Saul chased after David in order to hunt him down and kill him. David, in the meantime, was scared, running for his life, and hiding in caves. This chasing and running went on for several YEARS. David must have been frustrated and felt like saying to God, "What's going on, God? You wanted me to be king so when is this going to happen?" David had to wait for the day when God wanted him to take over the throne and several years passed before this happened. But then, Saul died and David was crowned the new king of Israel. David had to be patient and wait for God's plans for his life. God's timing is perfect and he has a specific plan for each of your lives. You need to sit tight and be patient. **Psalm 27: 14** is a great verse to keep in mind when you are feeling frustrated with waiting: **"Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD."** (ESV)

You:

Here is a challenge for this week: if you have to wait for something or somebody this week, remind yourself of the words from Psalm 27: 14. **“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD.”** Be assured that God hasn't forgotten about you. He is just asking you to wait on His timing. Hang in there. Be still and patient. God is working out his awesome and loving plan for your day and your life.

WEEK 6

Week of July 2

KINDNESS

Me & We:

There's a lot of people in this world, aren't there? People who live in neighbourhoods, sit in classrooms, and play soccer on teams and we need to figure out how to get along with each other. I wonder, has someone ever been mean to you? Maybe someone called you a name that hurt your feelings or took something that belonged to you? Have you ever been bullied or excluded? How did that make you feel?

God:

There are so many people in this world and God wants us to be nice to each other. God made you and me, and He loves us very much and in Ephesians 4:32, He commands us to: **“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (ESV)** Being “tender-hearted” means showing love, gentleness and kindness.

You:

Here is your challenge for the week: think of ways that you can be tender-hearted, gentle, and kind toward other people. Bring a smile to someone's face by doing an unexpected and random act of kindness. Make a card for your teacher or parent. Call your grandmother to talk. Help a neighbour bring in his groceries. Ask a person who is all alone at recess to join you in a game.

WEEK 7

Week of July 9

The Fruit of the Spirit is GOODNESS

Me & We:

The word “good” is a word that gets used a lot. A good soccer player might be the guy who flops around and makes incredible saves. A good report card has a lot of A+

marks on it. Good food might include juicy hamburgers or cheesy pizza or a big, shiny, red apple. A person with good manners may say “please, kind sir” or “thank-you, dear lady” all day long. But what does the word “good” really mean? What on earth does it mean to show “goodness”?

God:

There’s a story in the Bible about a man who was called “good”. This man was a Samaritan - which means he was from a part of Israel called Samaria - and he was walking down a lonely road in Israel. He must have been feeling hot, tired, and thirsty from his travels but suddenly he spotted a man who was hurt and lying on the side of the road. Robbers had jumped out and attacked the man, taking his money, and beating him up so badly that he was almost dead. The Samaritan saw him bleeding into the dust and he had compassion on, and pity and concern for him. The Samaritan stopped walking, bandaged up the man’s cuts, gave him food and brought him to a hotel so he could heal. Whenever this story is told in the Bible, the Samaritan is called the “good” Samaritan because he showed love, kindness and mercy for another person. He took time out of his day and travels to help someone. Here is a good Bible verse to keep in mind:

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12: 21

You:

Here is your challenge for this week: look for ways to show goodness. There are a lot of hurt people out there. They might not be bleeding into the dust on a quiet road, but maybe they are sad, lonely, or troubled. Think of ways that your words and actions can bring healing to others. Say things that you would like other people to say to you. Treat others the way you want them to treat you.

WEEK 8

Week of July 16

FAITHFULNESS

Me & We:

There is an old hymn called “Great is Thy Faithfulness”. Have you heard it before? It’s a song that sings about the way that God stays constant in a world that is constantly changing. Do you know what changes so much? Pretty much everything. Seasons change from summer to fall to winter to spring. Day becomes night. People change from baby to child to teenager to adult. Caterpillars turn into butterflies. Someone might change their mind, modify their clothes or switch their hairstyle. But God stays the same always and forever. He is constant, loving, caring and can be counted on to keep every promise that He makes. He is FAITHFUL.

God:

The Bible reminds us often that we can trust in God because He is trustworthy and unchanging. God is faithful. Deuteronomy 7:9 says: "Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments."

You:

Even though this world seems to be a whirlwind of change, God reminds us that He stays the same. **Here is your challenge this week:** remember that God loves you and that He keeps all His promises. God is faithful.

WEEK 9

Week of July 23

GENTLENESS

Me & We:

If you saw a fluffy, mewling kitten or a tiny, cute puppy, how would you handle it? Carefully? Softly? Cautiously? You need to be very gentle with the kitten or puppy because you don't want to hurt the tiny creature. Did you know that people should also be handled with care, softness, cautiousness and gentleness? Every person you meet is a person who is made by and loved by God. God wants you to treat them with gentleness so that you don't hurt others.

God:

In the Bible, God directs us to "...slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone." Titus 3: 2 (NIV) If you pet a kitten roughly, she may bite you. If you are not careful with a puppy, he might growl at you. When we are not gentle, harmful things can happen.

While people around us might not be as tiny and cute as a kitten or a puppy, they should all be handled with care. Gentleness helps and heals others. Not being gentle hurts and harms others.

You:

You may have seen fragile things with a big "HANDLE WITH CARE" sticker on them.

Your challenge this week is to pretend that every person you meet has that same warning sticker pasted on them. "HANDLE WITH CARE". Let your words be soft, helpful and healing. Let your actions be gentle and careful.

WEEK 10
Week of July 30
SELF-CONTROL

Me & We:

In soccer, if you lose control of the ball, it won't do what you want it to do. You can't pass it to a teammate because it is rolling along far away from you. You can't score a goal, because the ball is bouncing off the field. In soccer, you need to control the ball if you want to make a pass or score a goal.

Have you ever lost control of the ball?

Sometimes you may lose control of yourself. Maybe you were angry and, before you knew it, you had thrown a toy across a room or called someone a mean name. It can be so easy to lose control of your thoughts, actions or words especially if you are angry, upset, or excited.

Have you ever lost control of yourself?

God:

God knows that it is so easy to lose control and He encourages us to manage our actions and our words. The Bible has many parts that teach about self-control and Psalm 141:3 is directed to controlling our words. **"Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips."**

You:

Here is your challenge for this week: practice staying calm and in control of your words and actions. Here are some ways to help: If you feel yourself getting angry or upset, control your feelings by taking a deep breath, counting to 10, or saying a quiet prayer before you say or do anything.

WEEK 11
Week of August 6
GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Have you ever wondered where we came from? Where earth, animals, and nature came from? I believe the Bible when it says that God made all of this, including us! In fact, God's original plan was for us to enjoy life here on earth and to know Him like we know a friend; to have a relationship with Him. He loves us so much and created us so that we could know His love! Unfortunately, the first humans Adam and Eve chose to go against God's plan and they disobeyed Him, they sinned. The Bible says that "sin" is "missing the mark" or "falling short" of God's plan (Romans 3:23). Now, no one is perfect, except for God. We all make decisions, act, speak, and think in ways that go against what God

wants us to do. God is perfect and doesn't like sin at all because of what it does to us. Remember, He loves us so much and wants the best for us, so there needs to be a penalty for sin. For thousands of years God's people needed to pay the price for their wrongdoing. God told them to sacrifice something valuable and innocent, an animal, to make up for the wrong in their lives. Unfortunately, these sacrifices were never enough to completely pay the price, no matter what people, were still separated from God. It would be a really sad story if it ended there...but it didn't! The amazing news is that God loves us even though we are separated from Him by our sin! The Bible says that God chose to give us his perfect (innocent) Son Jesus to pay the price for the wrong we have done and will do. Listen to what the Bible says here: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.— John 3:16 Jesus lived a perfect life and though it brought God great pain, He gave Jesus over to be killed and when Jesus died, his perfect blood paid the price for all sin for all people... that includes you and me. Now when we trust in Jesus and what He did in our place, God forgives us of all the wrong we have done and we can be in a relationship with Him, just like He originally wanted! 3 days after Jesus died in our place, the Bible says that He rose from the dead! Can you imagine? What a miracle! It showed the world that nothing is impossible for God. It showed us that Jesus fully paid the penalty and that God's love for us is greater than we could ever imagine! Whoever believes that Jesus is God's Son, that He died in their place for their forgiveness, can know God like a friend, not just on earth now but forever in Heaven one day too!

WEEK 12

Week of August 13

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

Use the devotional time this week to ask kids to write down on a piece of paper or to share something they learned from devotionals this year. At the end please collect these notes and pass them along/email the responses to your convener. If time, ask a player to share something they learned with the whole group.

WEEK 19

Week of August 20

NO DEVOTIONAL. Award Ceremony.