

10-Week Youth Soccer Devotional Plan

Week 1: Building a Strong Foundation

Soccer Skill: Dribbling

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

Devotional Thought:

Just as dribbling is one of the first skills every soccer player learns, building our lives on God's truth is the foundation for everything else. Good dribblers keep the ball close and under control. In the same way, we stay close to God so He can guide our decisions.

Key Point: Strong players and strong believers both start with a solid foundation.

Questions:

1. Why is dribbling important in soccer?
2. What does it mean to build your life on God's foundation?
3. How can you stay close to God during the week?
4. What happens when we try to do things without God's guidance?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don't be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Week 2: Keeping Your Eyes Up

Soccer Skill: Passing

Scripture: Philippians 2:3-6

³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

Devotional Thought:

Great passers don't only look at themselves; they look for teammates. God calls us to think about others and help them succeed. Soccer is a team game, and the Christian life is about serving others.

Key Point: Passing teaches us to think beyond ourselves.

Questions:

1. Why is passing important for a team?
2. What does this verse teach about caring for others?
3. When is it difficult to put others first?
4. How can you encourage a teammate this week?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don't be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Week 3: Trust the Process

Soccer Skill: Shooting

Scripture: Galatians 6:9-10

⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

Devotional Thought:

Players may miss many shots before scoring a goal. Success often comes after lots of practice and perseverance. God encourages us not to quit doing good, even when we don't see results right away.

Key Point: Persistence leads to growth.

Questions:

1. Have you ever scored after missing several shots?
2. Why is it hard to keep trying when things aren't working?
3. What does God promise to those who don't give up?
4. Where do you need perseverance right now?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don't be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Week 4: Protecting What Matters

Soccer Skill: Defending

Scripture: Proverbs 4:20-25

*²⁰ My child, pay attention to what I say.
Listen carefully to my words.²¹ Don't lose sight of them.
Let them penetrate deep into your heart,²² for they bring life to those who find them,
and healing to their whole body.²³ Guard your heart above all else,
for it determines the course of your life.²⁴ Avoid all perverse talk;
stay away from corrupt speech.²⁵ Look straight ahead,
and fix your eyes on what lies before you.*

Devotional Thought:

Defenders protect their goal. God asks us to guard our hearts because our choices, words, and actions flow from them. We must be careful about what influences us.

Key Point: Protect your heart like a defender protects the goal.

Questions:

1. What makes a good defender?
2. What does it mean to guard your heart?
3. What influences can pull us away from God?
4. How can you protect your heart this week?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don't be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Week 5: Communication Matters

Soccer Skill: Team Communication

Scripture: Ephesians 4:25-29

²⁵ So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. ²⁶ And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.”^[a] Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil. ²⁸ If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. ²⁹ Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Devotional Thought:

Teams play better when players communicate clearly and positively. Our words have power to encourage or discourage. God wants us to use our words to build others up.

Key Point: Good communication strengthens the team.

Questions:

1. How does communication help a soccer team?
2. What kind of words build people up?
3. Why can negative words hurt a team?
4. Who can you encourage today?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don’t be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Week 6: Staying Focused

Soccer Skill: Ball Control

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.^[a] Because of the joy^[b] awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Devotional Thought:

Ball control requires concentration. Players must stay focused despite distractions. Following Jesus also requires focus, keeping our eyes on Him instead of getting distracted by the world around us.

Key Point: Focus leads to success both on and off the field.

Questions:

1. What distractions affect your soccer performance?
2. What distractions can affect your relationship with God?
3. Why does Hebrews tell us to fix our eyes on Jesus?
4. How can you improve your focus this week?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don't be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Week 7: Being Ready for Your Opportunity

Soccer Skill: Positioning

Scripture: Colossians 3:23-25

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Devotional Thought:

Good players position themselves where they can help the team. God wants us to be ready to serve wherever He places us. We should always give our best effort.

Key Point: Be ready when opportunities come.

Questions:

1. Why is positioning important in soccer?
2. What does it mean to work wholeheartedly?
3. How can you be ready to help others?
4. What opportunities has God given you recently?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don't be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Week 8: Trusting Your Teammates

Soccer Skill: Teamwork

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Devotional Thought:

No soccer player can win a game alone. God designed us to need one another. Strong teams support each other during victories and challenges.

Key Point: We are stronger together.

Questions:

1. Why can't one player do everything on a soccer team?
2. What benefits come from teamwork?
3. How can teammates support one another?
4. Who helps you grow in your faith?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don't be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Week 9: Responding to Adversity

Soccer Skill: Goalkeeping

Scripture: James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Devotional Thought:

Goalkeepers face pressure and must respond quickly after mistakes. Life also brings challenges. God uses difficult situations to strengthen our faith and character.

Key Point: Challenges help us grow stronger.

Questions:

1. What makes goalkeeping difficult?
2. How should we respond when we make mistakes?
3. What can hardships teach us?
4. How has a challenge helped you grow?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don't be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Week 10: Finishing Strong

Soccer Skill: Conditioning & Endurance

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7-8

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Devotional Thought:

Championship teams finish games strong. Followers of Jesus are called to stay faithful throughout their lives. Endurance means continuing to do the right thing even when it's hard.

Key Point: Faithfulness means finishing strong.

Questions:

1. Why is endurance important in soccer?
2. What does it mean to finish the race of faith?
3. How can you stay faithful when things get difficult?
4. What have you learned during this season that you want to keep practicing?

Prayer: Make sure to end every devotional with prayer. Don't be afraid to ask kids for prayer requests or even invite some of them to lead a prayer as they feel more comfortable!

Season Challenge

Encourage players to choose one lesson from the season and intentionally practice it both on the field and at home during the final week.