

SOCCER LEAGUE DEVOTIONS

Parent Companion Guide

PRACTICE 8

The GOOD NEWS

is that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins.



UPWARD
SPORTS

KEY VERSE

**I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. THE GOOD SHEPHERD
SACRIFICES HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.**

JOHN 10:11 (NLT)

Bottom Line: Jesus came to rescue us.

Did you know that the Bible often compares people to sheep? And in the New Testament, Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. A shepherd makes sure his sheep have food and water and are protected from danger. The sheep follow their shepherd to safety, to new grazing areas, or to a water source. If a sheep gets lost, the shepherd will go and rescue it. When we think about the type of leader Jesus is, a shepherd is a great comparison.

In John 10:11 (NLT), Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.”

What do you think that means? In this verse, we are the sheep. Why would Jesus have to give up His life for us?

The Bible tells us that, like sheep, people can get on the wrong path. Instead of following the shepherd—Jesus—we think we know what’s best, so we go our own way. A way that leads to danger and even death. Our own way is called sin. Every person here and every person who has ever lived has sinned except for Jesus. He lived a perfect life. He always followed God’s way.

Sin is anything we do, say, or think that disobeys God. Hurting other people, lying, being mean to someone, disobeying your parents—all these things are sins, along with many others. Because of our sins, we are separated from God. When we sin, we decide we don’t want to follow His way. We have gone off on our own path and can’t rescue ourselves.

But that’s where Jesus comes in. Jesus is God’s Son. He came to earth to live with us, and then He died for us. He was nailed to a wooden cross, and when He died on that cross, He paid for all our sins. He was buried in a tomb, but three days later, He came back to life, and He’s still alive today! By doing these things, Jesus rescued us. He made a way for us to be saved from the path of sin and death and brought us back to God. All we have to do is turn away from our sin and trust in Him to save us.

Romans 10:9 (NLT) says, “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

When we declare that Jesus is Lord, we are saying that His way is right and the way of sin is wrong. We want Him to be the ultimate leader in our lives. Believing that God raised Jesus from the dead means that we trust that what Jesus did has the power to save us. It means we really believe that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep. We believe He died and rose again to save us from our sins.

We’ll all still die one day. But if we decide to trust in what Jesus has done for us, when we die, we will no longer be separated from God. We will live forever with Him in heaven. And guess what? If we decide to trust in Jesus, that means we are part of God’s family NOW. He will give us the Holy Spirit, who will help us to live God’s way. That doesn’t mean we’ll be perfect, but it does mean He will help us when we struggle and work in our lives to make us more like Jesus.

If you or your child have questions about what all of this means, or you are ready to trust in Jesus to save you, contact your League Director or your coach. They’d love to talk to you.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

(Apply to Any Grade This Week)

- How is Jesus like a shepherd?
- What did Jesus do to rescue us? What did He rescue us from?
- How does what Jesus did for us—dying on the cross and rising again—make you feel?

GOING DEEPER

This week, spend time reading John 19-20 with your child and talk about this account of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Ask them why they think Jesus had to go through these terrible things. Why does it matter that He rose from the dead three days later? What does all of this mean for us?