

## Week 1: One Thing

### **From the PLAYBOOK: Matthew 22:37**

*“Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”*

Soccer is a game that demands that a team of players, different in position, play for a common goal. Teams that are successful are those teams that learn to play together and keep focused on the one thing that matters. They are the teams that understand their individual roles and bring them together to play as a team.

When Jesus was asked by some religious leaders of His day what was most important for a follower of God, He replied with one thing that we all have to keep first: Loving God with all we have. No matter what they did, or who they tried to impress, the one thing Jesus said to work on each day was loving God first. How are you doing with that one thing today? Have you let other “things” come in and change your focus or take attention away from what matters?

Even in soccer and other sports, the one thing that matters is that we Love God with all our heart on and off the field.

## Week 3: The Final Score

### **From the PLAYBOOK: Hebrews 9:27**

*“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.”*

If a soccer competition is tied at the end of regulation, it may end in a draw or tie. However, others play extra time or have a shootout so that a winner can be decided. Either way, each soccer game comes to an end. There is a final score that will determine the outcome of the game. The more times the soccer ball finds the net of the opposing team determines who advances in their season.

There will come a time, as our verse states, that our life on earth will be over. What will determine your final score to God? It won't matter how good you've been or how many people you have helped. It won't even matter how many times you have been to church. The only determining factor will be whether you know Jesus Christ as your Savior. Have you accepted Him? If so, your final score has already been determined, and you win with Jesus forever, in Heaven.

## Week 2: Team of Many

### **From the PLAYBOOK: 1 Corinthians 12:12**

*“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.”*

One of the greatest aspects of sport is the many players that come together to form one team. It is a miracle in a sense that many players can learn to appreciate and work together to accomplish greater things than can be accomplished alone. When a team taps into the differences of players and combines talents for one purpose, amazing results follow. A unified team will always accomplish more than any individual can alone. So learn to use your gifts and depend on the gifts of your teammates to create a unique team that will do far more than you can imagine.

As this team effort takes place on fields of sport, God speaks of this same miracle in the church: believers realizing their individual gifts and trusting others to use their gifts to accomplish God-sized tasks.

Have you seen this miracle in your life? In your church? Maybe you should ask God for unity to be part of His team.

## Week 4: The Goalie

### **From the PLAYBOOK: Romans 13:14**

*“Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”*

All the players of a soccer team wear a uniform to easily distinguish them from the other team. However, not all players wear the same type of uniform. The Goalie is a special position that requires different colors from even their own team. Often goalies wear unique shirts that tend to stand out on a soccer field. It makes them easy to see for the players, match officials, as well as the spectators.

Just as the goalie is set apart from the rest of the team Jesus wants us to be different from the world and how we live our lives. We are encouraged to be clothed in righteousness that comes only through knowing Jesus personally. When we make Jesus our head coach and live for him each day we will begin to look different from the world and be set apart. Then when others ask us why we are different we can tell them about our head coach, Jesus Christ.

## Week 6: Doing Drills

### **From the PLAYBOOK: Psalm 119:11**

*“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”*

Practice can be long and boring for some players. Drills that are repetitive seem to be no fun when we compare them with playing a real game. However, when we understand that those drills reinforce habits that we need to improve our play in a game, we should work harder and have a better attitude. When a soccer player practices dribbling the ball through cones with both feet, they will soon get so confident they won't even have to look down at the ball. Instead of looking down, their eyes will be up looking downfield for a teammate to pass too or they will see a shot opportunity they may have missed if their eyes were down.

God has given us drills to work on too. Prayer, memorizing scripture, and even fasting are tools that God has laid out before us to work on to get to know Him more and make us more effective. What drills have you worked on lately? It's never too late to start.

## Week 8: Running – endurance

### **From the PLAYBOOK: Isaiah 40:31**

*“But those you hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.”*

Soccer requires a lot of endurance. During one game, a soccer player runs a whole lot. All that running takes a lot of energy that really seems to zap our bodies. Even if we are in good shape and have trained hard, sometimes, we just feel tired.

When you are tired, what can help you make it through the match? Hope is a very powerful word. When we hope in something or someone, we find strength to make it all because we are hoping in something greater than what we are doing at that moment. Isaiah tells us that if we hope in the Lord, we will find strength. Strength that we didn't know existed. Strength we thought was gone. Strength that is only available through hope.

## Week 5: Soccer Defined

### **From the PLAYBOOK: 2 Timothy 3:16**

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

Someone a long time ago was probably playing out in their backyard with a ball. They were just kicking the ball around and decided to keep score as they tried to hit targets. Over time, that pastime developed into the game we know as soccer. In order for it to be spread throughout the world, the inventor had to write down the rules and the specifics of the game so that everyone would understand so that the game would be the same wherever it was to be played. You see if no one followed the rules as laid out by the Official Soccer Rulebook, the game would not be consistent and soccer would not be as big as it is today.

Just as in soccer, our creator, God Himself, designed life and wrote down principles and truth for us, His creation, to follow so that we would understand life. Just as we have to read and learn the rules of soccer to be effective for our team, we need to know God's word, the Bible, so that we can be effective in our life for God's team.

Do you have a Bible of your own? How often do you read your bible? If we want to be effective, according to God's word in our verse today, we need to understand how valuable His word is to us.

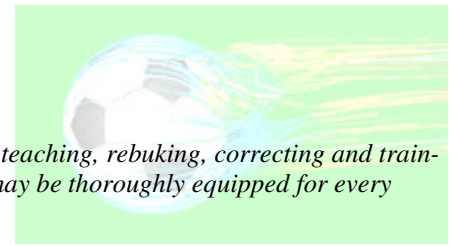
## Week 7: Penalty Cards

### **From the PLAYBOOK: 1 John 1:9**

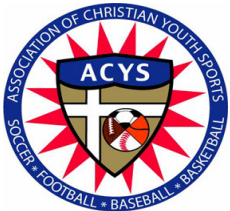
*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

Sometimes in soccer, we make mistakes that break the rules as laid out by the Official Rulebook. When we do that, the Match Officials will give a penalty by showing a card. If you make a mistake and receive a yellow card, the other team is awarded a free kick. If you do something that causes the official to give a red card, you are put out of the game. Either one of the offenses is not good for the team. When you make a mistake, the entire team is affected. Sometimes those offenses can cost your team the game.

When we make mistakes in life towards God, it is called sin. Just as in soccer, when we sin, which we all do, we will have consequences to deal with. However, we have the promise from God's word that if we confess, or tell God about our sin, He will forgive us if we just ask. Although there will still be consequences, we can be assured that our Heavenly Father will forgive us and give us a second chance. Have you messed up in a game for your team? Have you asked them to forgive you? Have you messed up with God lately? Have you asked Him to forgive you?

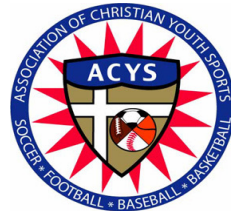


# 2007 ACYS Soccer Devotionals



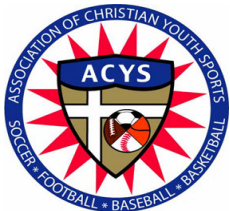
These devotionals cards are to be used by the ACYS Coach at practice each week. Take the time to read over the devotion ahead of time and share your heart with your team. Pray that God would allow you to share His truth through the sport of soccer..

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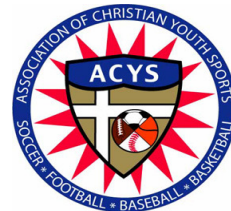
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# Thank You

Thank you for your effort to coach these young athletes.  
You are impacting their lives more than you will ever know.

This Devotional was designed specifically for ACYS by Lefty Golfer Ministries. May God's word penetrate the hearts and minds of these young athletes and illuminate a world that so desperately needs the light of this truth.



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