



CENTRAL

S P O R T S

Soccer

*Central Sports exists to promote the
discovery of Jesus through sports.*

Team Name: _____

Practice Day/Time: _____

Updated: February 2024

Table of Contents

Central Sports	2
Sports Offered.....	2
Practice/Game Day Cancellation Policy	2
Important Dates Table	2
Coaches: Requirements	3
Application & Background Check	3
Ministry Safe.....	3
Coaches: Expectations	3
Keys to Coaching	3
Central Sports Coaches’ Dress Code	4
Coaches: Responsibilities	4
Attend Coaches’ Training	4
Contact Your Team	4
Attend ‘Meet the Team’	4
Conduct Practices	5
Coach Games.....	5
Award End-of-Year Awards	5
Soccer at Central	6
Game Format.....	6
Field of Play	6
Number of Players.....	7
The Ball and Game Duration	8
Fouls	9
Restarts and Substitutions	10
Practice.....	11
Practice Breakdown.....	11
Examples	12
Weekly Devotions	14

CENTRAL SPORTS

Central Sports focuses on these three things: fun, growth, and respect.

- **Fun-** We want the kids, parents and you, the coach, to have fun. We want learning about Jesus to be fun. He is the creator of fun, so why wouldn't we have fun learning about Him?
- **Growth** - We want kids to be better players at the end of the season than they were at the beginning of the year. We want the players', coaches' and parents' relationship with Jesus to be deeper that it was when the season started. If they don't know Jesus, we want them to get to know Him.
- **Respect-** We want players and coaches to play to win, but at the same time not win at all costs. We want players and coaches to respect the opponent. We want you to have the same reaction in winning and in losing. Jesus taught us to love others, so we need to love the other team.

Sports Offered

January-February : Basketball, Cheerleading
March-May : Soccer
August- November : Flag Football, Volleyball

Practice/Game Cancellation Policy

If for some reason a cancellation does occur, emails will be sent out to the league and cancellation notices will be posted to the Central Soccer Facebook page

IMPORTANT DATES

Meet the Team: _____
First Week of practice: _____
First Game: _____
Last Game: _____
Deadline to request award medals: _____

COACHES: REQUIREMENTS

Application & Background Check

All coaches must complete an application and background check. This includes assistant coaches and fill-in coaches. If you know you will miss a game and need a fill-in coach for a game, please make sure they have completed and turned in the appropriate paperwork.

Ministry Safe

As a coach, you **MUST** complete the Ministry Safe Sexual Assault Awareness Training. This is to protect the players, you as the coach, and Central Sports. There are videos and a test at the conclusion of the training. The entire training should take no longer than 45 minutes. This training certification lasts 2 years. If you have taken the Ministry Safe Training at another church, please send your certification to familyactivities@centralbcs.org. If your training expires during the middle of the season, you will be asked to complete a new training prior to the start of the season. We thank you for taking every step possible to protect the kids that we love.

COACHES: EXPECTATIONS

We want you to grow in the knowledge, skills and passion for stewarding players to Christ through the sport of soccer. When you coach, we want you to instill character in the players. This only comes from a relationship with Jesus and a constant renewing of your mind with the things of Him. (Rom. 12:2)

Coaching can have more purpose than teaching players how to serve or pass. As a coach, you can teach your players about the truths of God: that He loves us and wants to know us, along with the sport. We want to come alongside and equip you to share Jesus with your players.

As a coach, we want you to be a positive role model – encourage and respect your players and the game by communicating clearly and consistently, listening to your players, and knowing the sport.

Keys to Coaching

- **Teach the game through drills** – The ability to execute proper drills enhances skill level and improves athletic foundations. Your practices should utilize drills that enhance skill development.
- **Teach the rules of the sport** – For the players to grow in the sport, they must understand and apply the rules of the game. Take time to explain rules and why they are important.
- **Instill sportsmanship with a competitive spirit** – In sports, winning and losing are part of the game, just as it is for life. Knowing how to handle both in a positive way builds character in young athletes. Teach your players to play hard and play to win, but also teach them to put others before themselves with a positive attitude and sportsmanship.
- **Communicate effectively** – In order to teach the rules, explain drills, and teach sportsmanship, you have to be an effective communicator. Likewise, good communication and organization are crucial in keeping parents informed throughout the season. This includes keeping them up to date on practice and game times and having a plan in place each and every practice.

Central Sports Coaches' Dress Code

- Central Sports Coach shirt or sleeved t-shirt
 - NO tank tops, muscle shirts, crop tops or spaghetti straps
- Athletic or walking shorts
 - NO compression pants, compression shorts, jeggings, etc., unless covered by shorts.
- Tennis/athletic shoes
 - Come dressed for practice the way you want the kids dressed for practice; set the standard and example.

COACHES: RESPONSIBILITIES

Attend Coaches' Training

- Attend training
- Pick-up shirt, roster, and handbook

Contact Your Team

- Introduce yourself (and your assistant coaches if applicable)
- Inform parents of:
 - Team name & age division (for the parents with multiple children playing)
 - Practice nights (day of week, time)
 - Meet the Team details
 - First Practice date
 - First Game date
 - Dress code for practice & games
 - Practice atmosphere
 - Game day atmosphere

We encourage you to request a confirmation so you know your parents receive the information.

Attend 'Meet the Team'

Location: Out on the fields if not raining, FLC if inclement weather

Kindergarten & Under Soccer – 6:00-6:20 pm

1-3rd grade Soccer – 6:30-6:50 pm

4-6th grade Soccer – 7:00-7:20 pm

- Introduce yourself
- Tell them when the first practice is (day of week, time)
- Tell them where the first practice is (all practices will be the same)
- Tell them what to bring to practice; learning attitude, water bottle
- Ask for a team parent to handle snack sign-up (if wanted/needed)
- Ask for help coaching if wanted/needed (must fill out paperwork/Ministry Safe training)
- Let them know when/if you will be out
- Hand out team rosters

IF YOU AND YOUR ASSISTANT COACH WILL NOT BE AT 'MEET THE TEAM', PLEASE LET YOUR TEAM KNOW THAT THEY DON'T NEED TO ATTEND.

Conduct Practices

- Be prepared for your practices! Conduct drills that teach skills.

- Be prepared for devotions! The players will get out of it what you put into it.
- Use positive reinforcement only; no punishment! Please no burpees, push-ups, etc.

Coach Games

- Be involved! Engage with players from the bench.
- Be an encourager! Always have uplifting words for your players. Praise them after the game.
- **Do not argue with the refs. Remember that they are volunteers! Please set a good example for your players.**

Award End-of-Year Medals

End-of-the-Year Medals are given after the last game of the season. This highlights your player's strength; it is not a "most improved, MVP, or best player" award. Multiple players can receive the same award. You will email Central Sports with a list of the awards you need. There are 10 award categories:

- Offense, Defense, Dribbling, Passing, Shooting, Hustle, Sportsmanship, Leadership, Character, Effort, Encourager

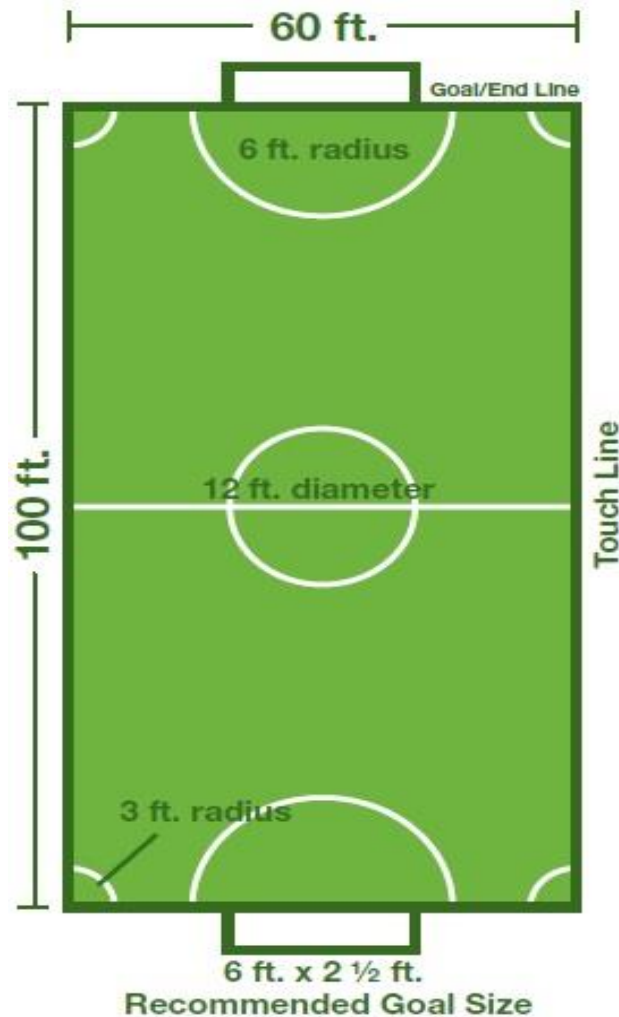
You will receive a reminder from Central Sports to provide your medal count & categories.

Please be aware: if you miss the deadline, your team will receive blank medals.

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER

- **Game Format**
 - Referees lead both teams in prayer at midfield before the game. Coaches are referees in all divisions except 4th-6th grade.
 - Referees will call and explain all violations.
 - The coaches should determine which team will start the game. The other team will start the second half.
 - Games consist of two 18-minute halves, one minute for substitutions and a brief halftime.
 - The game clock is maintained by the referee and will only stop every 6 minutes for the predetermined substitutions.
 - Teams will switch goals at halftime (except in the Kindergarten division).
 - No division standings are maintained in any division.
 - Coaches are allowed to walk the sidelines to support players. Coaches are on the field with k-3rd players to help coach during games.
 - All coaches will adhere to the substitution rules
 - No yellow cards or red cards are given / used
 - There is no extended time in Central Sports Soccer.
- **Field of Play**
 - Field Markings
 - The field of play should be marked with two touchlines, two goal lines and divided into two equal sections by the midfield line and a center circle.
 - Goal Area
 - Each goal area will be an arc (semi-circle) directly in front of each goal for Kinder – 3rd grade divisions.
 - Penalty Area
 - There will be no penalty area marked off.
 - Flag Posts
 - Placed at each of the four corners of the field. A yellow cone will make the corner kick area
 - Corner Arc
 - Corner arcs will be a quarter circles with a radius of 3’

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER (CONT’D)



110x55 ft – K-3rd Grades

240-120 ft – 4-6th Grades

- **Number of Players**

- Team Format

- 6v6 for kindergarten division
 - 5v5 for 1st – 3rd grade
 - 8v8 for 4-6th grade

- No Goalkeeper (K-3rd grades)

- Because of the goal arc and the size of the goal there is no need for a goalkeeper. This facet of the format is meant to give all players an active role as field players. Players WILL not be positioned in front of the goal arc to act as a goalkeeper and not be an active part of the game. As a compromise, coaches may position a player around midfield to play as a defender. There is a goalkeeper in the oldest division.

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER

- **The Ball and Game Duration**

- The Ball

- Kindergarten and under
 - Size 3
 - 1st – 3rd grade

- Size 4
 - 4th grade and Up
 - Size 5
- Game Duration
 - Periods of play
 - The game will consist of two 18-minute halves with each half being divided into three 6-minute periods
 - Game Clock
 - A referee will maintain the game clock.
- A kick-off begins each half and after a goal has been scored. Opposing players must remain outside the center circle or 4 yards away until the ball has been put in play.
- The team in possession of the ball at the end of the first, 2nd, 4th and 5th six-minute period retains possession of the ball. The team with possession of the ball will start the next six minute period with a throw-in at the closest point on the sideline when play was stopped. The team that did not start the game with the kick-off will begin the second half of the game with a kick-off.
- **Shooting Arc (K-3rd Grades)**
 - There is no ball contact allowed within the shooting arc. If the ball comes to a stop within the arc, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team regardless of who touched the ball last.
 - If the ball has broken the plane of the shooting arc and a defensive player touches the ball, but the referee determines that the ball would NOT have gone in the goal, a corner kick is awarded to the attacking team.
 - If the ball has broken the plane of the shooting arc and a defensive player touches the ball and the ball WOULD have gone in the goal, a goal is awarded.
 - If the attacking player touches the ball inside the arc, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team.

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER (CONT'D)

- Fouls will result in either an indirect or a direct kick. Opposing players must be 5 yards away from the ball.
 - Indirect Kick:
 - A player other than the kicker must touch the ball before a goal can be scored.
 - Awarded to the opposing team if one of these fouls is committed:
 - Dangerous Play
 - Obstructing an opponent
 - Delay of Game
 - Direct Kick:
 - The kicker may score directly without another player touching the ball.
 - Awarded to the opposing team if one of these fouls is committed:
 - Handling the ball
 - Kicking an opponent

- Hitting an opponent
 - Pushing an opponent
 - Tripping an opponent
 - Holding an opponent
 - Any unsportsmanlike conduct
 - Slide tackling or any contact with the ball while the player is on the ground.
- A penalty kick is awarded for deliberate handling/kicking of the ball inside the goal arc that denies the opposing team a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity.
 - A goal is not scored if a player kicks or throws the ball into his or her own goal. A corner kick is awarded for the opposing team. This removes the possibility of a player scoring for the other team and prevents further embarrassing a player for making this mistake.
 - A goal may only be scored from a player's offensive end of the field. This prohibits a player from scoring a goal on a kick-off or from a goal kick.
 - Offside is not called because of the field size and the number player on the field.
 - Slide Tackling is not allowed.
 - Players who commit two fouls resulting in direct kicks, excluding handballs, in the same 6-minute segment must sit out the remainder of that segment.

RULES UNIQUE TO CENTRAL SPORTS SOCCER (CONT'D)

- Re-Starts
 - Out-of-bounds
 - The entire ball must go out-of-bounds to be out of play. If part of the ball is still touching the line, play continues uninterrupted.
 - Corner Kicks
 - When the ball passes over the goal line after being last touched by the defensive team. The ball is placed inside the corner arc on the side of the field where it went out-of-bounds.
 - Goal Kicks
 - When the ball passes over the goal line after being last touched by the attacking team or if the ball comes to a stop within the goal arc. The ball is placed on the goal line, 5 yards from the goal arc on the side of the field where it went out-of-bounds
 - Throw-ins
 - When the ball passes over the sidelines, the team to touch it last loses possession and the opposing team takes a throw-in.
- Substitutions
 - This substitution system is designed to provide every player an equal opportunity for improvement.
 - Goalies must also switch out for the older division.
 - The substitution system ensures that:
 - Every child will play at least half of the game.
 - No child will sit out more than six minutes at a time.

- The starting lineup shifts down one player every game allowing every child to be in the starting lineup.
- Coaches are not open to making unfair substitutions.
- Coaches are free from monitoring playing time for each player.
- Playing time for all players is virtually even over the course of the season.

Practice

- Practice nights: Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday
- Practice times: 5:30-6:30 pm or 6:30-7:30 pm
- Soccer fields are shared for practices.
- Devotions are at the midway point of your practice. Keep an eye on the time.
- Positive reinforcement only; no punishments such as burpees, push-ups, etc.

PRACTICE BREAKDOWN

- *Pre-Practice Huddle (3-5 minutes)* – Cover specific rules and the basics of the game. Teach and review proper techniques for each skill needed for practice drills.
- *Warm-up Activity (3-5 minutes)* – Provide players the opportunity to practice individually and slowly warm up their muscles.
- *Practice skills through drills (20 minutes)* – Use drills that reinforce skill development. Focus on only one to two skills per practice.
- *Mid-practice huddle (5-7 minutes)* – Share the practice-specific devotion for each week. An intern will come in and announce devotion time at the mid-point of practice.
- *Scrimmage or games that teach (20 minutes)* – Guide players in using the skills they are learning through scrimmaging.
- *Post-practice huddle (5 minutes)* – Communicate game times, picture times, etc. After practice is a great time to engage in conversation with parents.

Game Day:

Prior to Game

- Set your lineup
 - Equal start time/play time for every player
- Find out which bench is yours
- Warm-up until ref signals ‘balls in’

During Game

- Six 6 minute quarters (no clock stoppages) with a break for substitutions
- Teams will switch sides at half time

After the Game

- Line up and shake hands (high-fives)
- Move your team off the field of play to meet
- Pass out team snack
- Positively congratulation/critique your team

EXAMPLES

Example Intro/Meet the Team Email:

Howdy parents!

We are so excited to have your child on the {TEAM NAME} soccer team at Central Sports! Our heart is to teach these kids fundamental soccer skills, guide them in practicing good sportsmanship, and deepen their understanding of God's perfect love for them. We are joyfully praying over your children and this season together!

***Meet the team is {DAY OF WEEK} from {TIME}-{TIME} at either the Family Life Center or the fields, depending on weather. Our first practice is on {DAY OF WEEK}, {DATE}.**

*It is IMPERATIVE that your kids be ON TIME to all practices and games. We only have 1 hour a week to practice so every minute counts!

*Your children will need a good pair of athletic shoes/cleats for the season, along with shin guards. Athletic shorts must be worn over any tights/leggings. Shirts should cover the midriff.

*Games will begin Saturday, {DATE}. We will send you the game schedule as soon as it is released.

{Indicate how you will communicate throughout the season, whether that is groupme, group texts, emails, etc.)

*Please let us know if you have any questions. Go {Team Name}!

Example Weekly Team Email:

Central Sports Soccer – Galaxy, Week of 5/3

PRACTICE

Thursday, May 6th, 5:30 PM

Please have players ready to go at 5:30.

Make sure they have a water bottle, have used the restroom and are wearing Cleats/tennis shoes/shin guards.

GAME

Saturday May 8th, 10:00 AM

Arrive by 9:45 – **If you will not make the game please let me know ASAP**

Visit the restroom prior to the game. Bring a water bottle!

****SNACKS** - (Parent Name)**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

*****UPCOMING*****

PRACTICE

Thursday, May 13th, 5:30

PICTURES

Saturday, May 15th, 11:20

This is an example of a weekly communication sent out on Sunday or Monday. The UPCOMING events listed out the whole season (practice, games, pictures, snacks, etc).

These examples are provided to assist you with wording. You do not need to copy them word for word.

Make sure to adjust dates, time, and team names!

Make sure that you include the team name & age division in the Subject Line!

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

- Be prepared each week for devotional. Know the scripture; don't just read it off the paper. Bring your Bible.
- Make the devotional your own; personalize it. Talk about situations your players will understand. Relate it to the game, school, home life, etc.
- If the kids get side tracked by a question or topic related to God, that may be worth spending more time talking about
- Ask for questions! If you don't know the answer, tell them you will get back to them with an answer and do it!
- Remember: YOU may be the only 'Jesus' they see!

Week 1: Getting to Know You

At the halftime of practice – play The Name Game:

1. Have each player give their name and tell you the animal they would most like to be and why
2. You, the coach, now try to go around and name each of the players and the animal they want to be like – this may be challenging.
3. Have each player go around and try to name all the players with the animal.

During a water break, find out from your players:

- Where they go to school
- Whether they have brothers and sisters
- What they like to do in their free time

Tell them a snippet of your story – you will do more of this throughout the season. This would include:

- Where you grew up
- Where you went to school
- Whether you have brothers and sisters
- What you liked to do in your free time when you were their age

Try to memorize the verse by the end of the season:

Ephesians 2:8 “ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God”

Say it a few times as a team. Try breaking it down with you saying and them repeating each word or saying it in silly voices or loudly and quietly. Make it fun and engaging while helping them to hear it a few times.

Week 2: Gospel

Ice Breaker: (fun way to get the kids shifted to talking and to learn more about them)

What do you want to be when you grow up? You can share what you do or what you wanted to be when you were younger

Lesson:

How many of you have never ever messed up in your life? You've gotten a 100 on every test/homework, you always clean your room right when your parents ask you too, you've never lied about anything? We've all messed up at some point or another.

Adam and Eve were the first people to mess up. They were created by God and put in the garden of Eden and got to walk and talk with God on a regular basis. Everything was perfect for them, all they had to do was not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. That was it! They could eat from any other tree/bush in the garden. But one day the devil spoke to Eve and told her that she would not surely die if she ate from the tree. He told her that she would be like God and convinced her to eat the fruit. So, Eve ate it and then gave some to Adam to eat and they disobeyed God. This was when sin entered the world. Sin is anything that we do that disobeys God and because of sin, God had to cast Adam and Eve out of the garden because he could not be with them anymore. God cannot be in the presence of sin.

Many years went by, and God still looked after his people, but the world was evil because of sin. However, at just the right time, God sent His Son, Jesus, to come and live a perfect life that we never could, die on a cross, and rise 3 days later. Does anyone know the verse John 3:16? (Wait for response; if no one knows it, please read it to them). John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

When Jesus died and rose again, He took on all of the sins of every person in the world that had ever lived and will ever live. He took on each of our sins and buried it in the grave and then rose again to show that he had conquered our sin and to show death had no hold on us.

That's not the end of the story though. Jesus will come back and judge the world based on if we are followers of him or not. Those who are Christians will get to spend forever in Heaven with God. Those who are not will be eternally separated from God, and that is a tragic thing to happen. We want everyone to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior because Jesus wants what's best for you.

Application:

We've all messed up but Jesus came to die for our sins and give us a way to get back to a relationship with God

Ask for prayer requests and pray

Week 3 - By Grace

Ice Breaker: (fun way to get the kids shifted to talking and to learn more about them)

What is your favorite subject in school? Share yours when you were a kid or what you like to learn about now

Recap:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Let them try to recap, give them a short window)

For younger kids ask more direct recap questions:

- Who were the first people to mess up? Adam and Eve
- What happened when they messed up? God cast them out of the garden
- Who came to live a perfect life? Jesus
- What did Jesus die for? Our sins
- Did Jesus stay dead? No!

Memory verse:

Let's practice our memory verse! Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"

Lesson:

Does anyone know what grace means? (let them answer) Some of you might not know people named Grace or hear about someone being graceful. The grace we're talking about is getting something you do not deserve. It's kind of like getting a gift just because!

No one understood this better than the author of our verse, Paul. Before Paul wrote our memory verse, he was actually pretty bad. If you can imagine the meanest person you ever met, the worst bully you've ever been around, the person who picks on you constantly. Paul was worse than all of them! He set out to kill Christians all over. (For younger kids, could say hurt Christians) One day, Jesus stopped Paul and told him to change his ways. He stopped hurting Christians and spent the rest of his life sharing about the good news of Jesus to others!

Paul knew his actions were terrible. But God gives grace to all those who don't deserve it. We get to accept that free gift and follow after him.

Application:

God extends grace to all, even when we don't deserve it.

Ask for prayer request and pray

Ice Breaker:

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't in school? Share your favorite past time right now or when you were there age

Recap:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Let them try to recap, give them a short window)

For younger kids ask more direct recap questions:

- What is grace? Getting something we don't deserve
- Who was stopped by Jesus? Paul
- Was he good or bad before meeting Jesus? Bad
- What did he do after Jesus stopped him? He spent his life telling others about God

Memory verse:

Who can say our memory verse? (Let one or two try) Let's say it all together! Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"

Lesson:

Does anyone like superheroes or characters who have to fight to save people? Those stories are always fun when we see someone being saved from immediate danger.

But our verse says by grace we have been saved. It doesn't feel like we're in danger like in a superhero story. What have we been saved from? If you remember from a few weeks ago, we talked about everyone having sinned. Romans 3:23 tells us "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Sinning means disobeying God. Does that mean I've sinned before? (let me answer) I have! I've not listened to my parents before, I've disobeyed my teachers, I've not always told the truth. I've sinned before! Just like each of your parents, your teachers, and each of you.

Why do we need saving from sin? Romans 6:23 tells us "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Just like disobeying your parents can get you consequences, disobeying God leads to consequences.

But the GOOD NEWS: In 1 Timothy 1:15, Paul tells us "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst." Jesus came to offer grace and save us from our sin!

Application:

Jesus came to save us from the consequences of our sins!

Ask for prayer requests and pray

Week 5 - Through Faith

Ice Breaker:

What is your favorite sport or game to play? Share yours to play or watch

Recap:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Let them try to recap, give them a short window)

For younger kids ask more direct recap questions:

- What do we need to be saved from? Sin
- What is sin? Disobeying God
- Who has sinned? EVERYONE

Memory verse:

Who can say the memory verse? (Let one or 2 say it) Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God”

Lesson:

When you sin in a chair, do you trust it will hold you up? (Have them nod agreement) Most times we trust a chair will hold us up. We have FAITH in that chair to do its job: to hold us up.

Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, had a crazy moment of faith. He and the rest of the disciples were traveling on a boat when they saw what looked like a ghost coming out on the water. They were TERRIFIED until they realized it was Jesus. Peter said if it was really Jesus out there, he should call him out to the water with him. So Jesus called Peter to come walk on the water. But Peter got scared out there and stopped trusting Jesus to protect him. The story wraps up in Matthew 14:31–33 “Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’ And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”

Peter lost faith but seeing Jesus calm the raging sea made all the Disciples grow in their faith. We don’t always get something as visible as walking on water but we can have faith that God will move for his people.

Application:

When we trust God to show up in our scary moments, we can see him move in amazing ways!

Ask for prayer requests and pray

Week 6 - Not by own doing

Ice Breaker:

What is your favorite movie? Share yours now or what it was when you were their age

Recap:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Let them try to recap, give them a short window)

For younger kids ask more direct recap questions:

- Who did we talk about last week? Peter and Jesus
- What did he do? Walk on water
- Did he stay on the water or start to sink? Start to sink
- What did Jesus do once Peter started to sink? Save him and calm the storm
- How did the Disciples respond? They had faith in Jesus

Memory verse:

Who can say the memory verse? (Let one or 2 say it) Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God”

Lesson:

Does anyone have a skill they do really well? Like dribbling maybe a soccer skill or you can run really fast or you draw really well or can read a book really fast? (let a few share quickly) At some point in our life you couldn't do those things. You had to work to develop those skills.

God giving us grace is different than that. It's not something we can achieve. Romans 9:16 explains it as “So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.” The grace of God saving us from our sins and offering us a new way a life is totally dependent on God. Not because we did anything, not because we're better than anyone, but because of grace and mercy, God offers us salvation

Application:

God's grace is offered because of who God is, not because of anything I did to deserve it

Ask for prayer requests and pray

Week 7 - Gift from God

Ice Breaker:

What is the best gift you've ever gotten? Share yours

Recap:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Let them try to recap, give them a short window)

For younger kids ask more direct recap questions:

- Is grace something we earn? No
- Does it depend on us or God? God

Memory verse:

Who can say the memory verse? (Let one or 2 say it) Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"

Lesson:

Has anyone ever gotten a gift just because? Not a birthday gift or a Christmas gift. Just because someone wanted to give you a gift? (Let them raise hands, tell them if you've had a gift like that)

Just like a gift you get for no reason, God offers us grace that we didn't earn. But what exactly is the gift he's offering? We've talked about sin being disobedience to God. What happens when you disobey your parents or your teachers or me as your coach? Do you ever get consequences/punishments? (let them nod or agree) Disobeying God means the same things. Romans 6:23 tells us "the wages of sin is death". (For younger kids, explain wages as result or earnings or consequences)

That's a crazy consequence! The rest of Romans 6:23 gives us the BEST NEWS! It says "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Despite the fact that we've all sinned and should be given death, God wants to offer us grace. If we accept this gift and follow after Jesus, we are given life instead of death!

Application:

Even though we deserve consequences for our sins, God is offering the gift of grace!

Ask for prayer requests and pray

Week 8 - No one may boast

Ice Breaker:

What is your favorite thing about yourself? Share your own, help some kids if they can't think of anything

Recap:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Let them try to recap, give them a short window)

For younger kids ask more direct recap questions:

- What does sin mean? Disobeying God
- What is the consequence of sin? Death
- What does God offer us? Free gift of grace

Memory verse:

Who can say the memory verse? (Let one or 2 say it) Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"

Lesson:

Our verse talks about getting grace as a free gift from God, but the next verse explains that grace is "not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:9) Do we know what boast means? (let them say it or try to guess) It can mean to talk about your accomplishments, kind of like bragging or showing off. This verse is telling us that we can't boast in our own doing because we've done nothing to deserve grace from God.

Someone who understood that really well was Daniel. Daniel went before an angry King Nebuchadnezzar, who wanted someone to tell him what his dream meant. No other wisemen in the city could tell King Nebuchadnezzar what the dream meant. Daniel had the answer the king was looking for but instead of taking credit all for himself, Daniel pointed to God as the one who gave him this gift. Daniel 2:27-28 says "Daniel answered the king and said, 'No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.'" Daniel boasted in God over his own abilities.

We aren't saved by anything we do but because God extended grace towards us.

Application:

Boast in God extending grace over us getting grace

Ask for prayer requests and pray

Week 9: The Gospel

Ice Breaker:

What's been your favorite part of the season? Share yours!

Recap:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Let them try to recap, give them a short window)

For younger kids ask more direct recap questions:

- Do we earn grace? No
- Did Daniel boast in his own ability? No
- Who should we boast about? God!

Lesson:

I want you to think all the way back to the first week of soccer. Some of you had never played, and some had played. Now think about how much you have learned about soccer and how much better you have gotten at playing (Make sure to point out an accomplishment of one of your struggling players). Even with all the practice, do you think there will ever be a time that you will become a PERFECT Soccer player? Do you ever think there will come a time when you don't mess up in a game or practice EVER? No. Probably not.

This is how the Christian life works too. When you first become a Christian, you are still going to mess up and sin. But the coolest thing about that is, just like we've been talking about all season long, God is still with us even in those times. Being a Christian is not something that is easy. Jesus even told us, "In this life, you will have trouble." (John 16:33)

The good news is that for those who have become a Christian, Jesus died on the cross for EVERYTHING we have done wrong. That means that everything we have done wrong, and everything we will do wrong in our lives. He paid for it all with his blood and then raised to life three days later, conquering sin and death's power over us. Romans 5:8 tells us, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." For those who have never made the decision to ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life, that means that Christ died for you too! He loves each and every one of us that much! And He is right there, waiting for you to turn to Him whenever you are ready.

Read Romans 3:23, 6:23, and Ephesians 2:8. All you have to do is admit that you have sinned against God and that there is nothing you can do to fix this on your own, believe that Jesus is God's son and that He came to die on a cross and rise three days later to conquer everyone's sin and death, and then was raised three days later, and finally we must confess that we are followers of Jesus and tell others about Him and what He has done in our life! If any of you have never asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life, please come talk to me and I'd love to talk more about it with you. If you have, THAT'S AWESOME! Continue to tell your friends about what Jesus has done.

Ask for prayer requests and pray