

RAINBOW KICKS OF SOCCER

I AM 3RD SOCCER DEVOTIONAL





VISION STATEMENT:

Centenary is a Kingdom community empowered by God to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

We are a multi-generational church built on 150 years of history and Wesleyan tradition, seeking to model and live out the love of Christ for the generations to come.

We are a church on mission, impacting our community and the world with service to others. We are a praying community, seeking the transformational power of the Holy Spirit. We are a people of grace, following the example of Christ as we love one another. We are worshippers, gathered for the unified glorification of our Creator God, our Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

We are people of generosity who give back that which God first has given us. We are rooted in the word of scripture and the truth of Biblical teaching. We are boldly proclaiming the good news of the Gospels throughout our community - in schools, in neighborhoods, on the soccer field, and on the basketball court.

We are casual. We are serious about relationships. We are growing. We are teaching, We are learning. We are sons and daughters of the Living Lord, and we pray you will join us for this great adventure of living out the call of Christ to love one another as he has loved us. We are the body of Christ. We are Centenary.

CENTENARY VALUES...

LIVE in a vital relationship with God through Jesus Christ and in loveing community with one another. (Luke 10:27)

LISTEN to God's word as authoritative for life. (Hebrews 4:12)

WORSHIP God together authentically. (Romans 12:1-2)

SHARE the reality of God's changing power with others. (Acts 1:8)

SERVE in the face of injustice reaching out to those who are hurting and look to help where needed. (Matthew 25:40)

GIVE generously of time, talent, and resources in response to God's overwhelming Generosity. (Acts 25:35)



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LETTER TO PARENTS



DEAR I AM 3RD PLAYERS, PARENTS, AND COACHES,

We are excited that you have decided to participate in I am 3rd Soccer! This season we hope all players will learn the fundamentals of soccer, coming away with a deeper understanding of the game. In addition, we hope you meet friends, further relationships, and find community within your team.

Our prayer for your family and yourself is that you would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ. We encourage you to spend quality time as a family: talking about life, learning more about each other and growing closer together. Take advantage of the time you will spend together as a family at games and practices this season. Our desire is that I Am 3rd Soccer is not just another thing you do during the week, but rather becomes an amazing time for you and your family to spend together and create memories that will last for a lifetime. Finally, we hope that the weekly devotions will help your family learn more about Jesus Christ, His life, His purpose, and His relevance in our lives. We pray that your family will explore Jesus Christ with us, seeking who He is, and understanding His importance in our lives.

We are continually grateful for the support of White, Greer and Maggard Orthodontics and their partnership with I am 3rd. They have given generously to the I am 3rd program for many years and this soccer season they have continued to provide the league with financial gifts that contribute greatly to create an amazing soccer league experience for all I AM 3RD participants!

We hope you have a great season!



In Christ,

I am 3rd Sports
Centenary UMC





HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

At the start of each weekly practice session, begin with the suggested game or another fun drill. Once most of the team has arrived, circle up and ask a question or two. Have a player volunteer to read the scripture being highlighted. Ask players what the scripture means to them. Share with the team the main point of the scripture. Pray together or ask for a student to lead in prayer. Highlight the challenge. Then begin your formal practice. Finally, "Let's play a game" is an optional portion of the devotional. If time allows, these games are meant to compliment the devotional and help drive home the message of the week even more.

As a follow up to the practice session, if you have a group email set up for your team, you may want to send out the scripture and/or challenge to the students during the week.



QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK



PRAYER OF THE WEEK



CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

INTRODUCING THE THEME

In God's book, the Bible, His message to us in the very first book of Genesis, chapter 9, it tells the story of the great flood. Who knows something about this story?

Listen to these verses: "Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 9 "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you 10 and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. 11 I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind."

WEEK 1

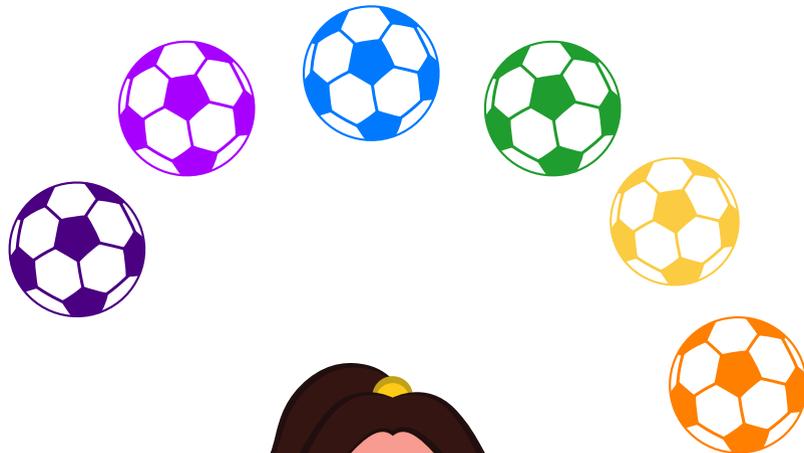
This soccer season, we are going to study the colors of the rainbow. One way to remember the colors of the rainbow is through the acronym: ROY G BIV.

Here are the colors of the rainbow:

Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet

Not only will we learn how the rainbow is a great reminder of the amazing promise God made to Noah and his people many years ago, but also how each color can remind us of God and Jesus Christ. When we see a rainbow in the sky, we are reminded that God keeps his promises and following Christ will lead to God's presence, power, and purpose for our lives.

This season, you will certainly have an amazing experience learning the fundamentals of soccer, but you will also learn so much more about God.





DEVOTION 1: RED

PRE K - 3RD



When you think of the color red, what do you think of?
Does anyone know what the word sacrifice means?

4TH & UP

When you think of the color red, what do you think of?
How is Jesus' sacrifice on the cross related to the color red?

COLOSSIANS 1:19-20

19"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."



ISAIAH 1:18



18 "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Red represents Christ's blood and what he did for us on the cross. God sent His son to earth to provide us with a great example of how to live our lives. Then Jesus went to the cross as a sacrifice so we can have a relationship with God and live with Him forever. Playing soccer is only a temporary thing. Some of you may continue to play through college, some even professionally. But at some point, our soccer/sports career will end. Fortunately for us, our relationship with God can never end if we decide to follow Jesus. Because Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected and we know we can have eternal (forever) life with God, our heavenly Father. Isn't that awesome?



God, thank for sending Jesus to live on earth, and die on the cross for our sins so we could have a relationship with you, and eternal life. Amen.

Coaches, challenge your players to be a living sacrifice for someone this week. What that means is that they put aside what they want and think of others first. This could mean many things. Suggestions include:

- helping a sibling with homework or a chore
- helping a parent or guardian with a job around the house
- providing a sandwich or a bottle of water to someone on the street

Another great challenge would be to make the extra pass in a game. Players can sacrifice their chance to score by passing the ball and giving a teammate an even better chance to score.

Some passing drill featuring students who are wearing red (bring red bandanas)...or slip on shirts in red??





DEVOTION 2: ORANGE



PRE K - 3RD

Where have you been a helper to someone else?
How does God help us in our lives?

4TH & UP

Where have you been a helper to someone else?
Where do you need God's help in your life? School? Family? Soccer?

JOHN 14:26

"26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."



JOHN 14:16

16 "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,[a] to be with you forever,"

Today we are talking about the color "orange" and how it is portrayed in the Bible. The color orange is created by mixing red and yellow. Orange is the color of fire, which represents the fire of God, also called the Holy Spirit. When we believe in God, the Holy Spirit is given to us as a helper. Through this helper, God gives us energy to follow His ways, and guides us to the places we need to be. We can be energetic about a sport and still run into problems, but God will be there to help. We can gain God's help by talking to Him, which is called prayer. Learning a new sport, and many other things in our lives, can be hard. But God can help us overcome any fears or challenges we face. God's fire within us can help us make our path straight.



God, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. We ask for your Spirit to come and live within us, guiding us to make good choices to follow you and glorify you. Help us to also be helpers to others. Amen.



Ask players to look for one way they can be a helper to someone else in the coming week. Examples include asking to help prepare or clean up dinner, helping another student in class, helping to clean up after a project, or offering a word of encouragement to someone who seems sad.





DEVOTION 3: YELLOW

PRE K - 3RD



What's your favorite color?
Why do you think some people say Jesus
is the light of the world?

4TH & UP

What did Jesus do during his life to show
that He is the light of the world?
What are some ways we can show God's
light and let it shine through us?

JOHN 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."



MATTHEW 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Today's color is **yellow**. When you think about yellow, what do you think of? I think of sunshine and light. When the sun is shining, it makes me happy. It means being outside with my friends and it makes my day better. Light helps us see where we are going and it helps all living things to grow. Jesus said in our scripture verse that He is the light of the world. Jesus is not talking about being a physical light that we can see. Rather he is talking about the light to guide us toward God the Father. He is the light that leads us and helps us grow to be more like God in our lives. But Jesus is not the only one who can be the light of the world. We can too! When we do things that show God's love for others, and give glory to God, we can bring light to other people's lives!



God, help us all to do good works in your world, so we can live like Jesus, and be a light to show the way to you! Amen



Look for ways this coming week to be the light to others. Showing good sportsmanship during practice and games would be a great start! By helping someone up when they are down or complimenting someone on how they are playing we can show God's light to everyone around us!





DEVOTION 4: GREEN



PRE K - 3RD

What are some things you see in the Spring?
Why do we need the sun and water for plants?

4TH & UP

What do we need to make plants grow?
What does resurrection mean? How is Spring like the resurrection?

JOEL 2:22

"Do not fear, beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, for the tree has borne its fruit, the fig tree and the vine have yielded in full.



JOHN 14: 6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

The color **green** comes from a combination of yellow (light) and blue (water). Light and water are two ingredients that help things grow. In the Bible, green is a symbol of growth and resurrection. Spring is the season when we understand the meaning of resurrection because the grey winter gives way to new growth all around us. The earth seems to be reborn in the Spring. When it says, "Do not fear, beasts of the field," God is reminding us that he takes care of His creation, the plants, and animals, and even us. We can know without any doubt that God will provide for us, just as He does for the beasts of the field because He loves us so much.



God, help us grow in our knowledge of your son, Jesus because he shows us the way to you. We love you, Lord and know you love us too. Amen.

Coaches encourage your players to help someone/something grow.

- Ask your family if you can grow a plant together, or offer to help take care of a plant in your home.
- Grow a relationship....make a new friend with someone in your family or school you do not know very well.



Start with one person dribbling the ball on half the field. Try to tag someone else. Once they are tagged, join hands and dribble the ball together, trying to tag more people...Once you have tagged four people, break into pairs, and continue dribbling the ball, and tagging others until only one person remains untagged. That person is the winner.





DEVOTION 5: BLUE



PRE K - 3RD

Can you name a few things that are blue? (hopefully, someone will answer "water")

When was the last time you were thirsty?

4TH & UP

What are some things that God created to help us survive that are blue?
What does the bible say about water?

ISAIAH 44:3



"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."

JOHN 4: 14

"but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Blue is a primary color usually associated with water. Water is essential to all life. When we play soccer, it is important to drink plenty of water! In these verses from God's book, the Bible, God is reminding His people that He will satisfy their thirst. And in the bible, water is often associated with God's Holy Spirit, which is a gift given to all who believe in Him. These verses teach us several truths about God:

1. God will bless us, our families and even the children we may have when we become adults and have families of our own.
2. God will provide for us.
3. With God's Spirit in our lives, we can be certain that one day, we will spend eternity with God.



God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us. Help us live as a spring of your living water, full of hope and love in this world. Amen.



Encourage your players to drink five glasses of water a day, and put a water bottle in their car or backpack to share with someone who may be thirsty.

Have team members carry a paper cup full water while they try to dribble the ball across the field. The player with the most water on the other side is the winner.





DEVOTION 6: INDIGO

PRE K - 3RD



Who has seen the movie Toy Story?
 What does Buzz (from Toy Story) say when you press his buttons?
 What can we do to point people to heaven like Buzz?

4TH & UP

Who has seen the movie Toy Story?
 What does Buzz say when you press his buttons?
 How is Buzz like Jesus with what he says?

JOHN 3:16-17

16 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. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



REVELATION 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

This week our color is **Indigo**. Indigo is the color of the night sky just after the sun goes down....and it represents infinity, which is just a fancy word for forever. When God sent His Son to die for us. Jesus died on the cross and took our sins, our punishment, and what we deserved because we live our own way instead of God's way. Being in heaven with God is what Jesus gave us by dying for us. That is our forever. One of my favorite Disney characters is Buzz Lightyear. One of the colors on his wings is indigo, which always reminds me that heaven is our infinity and that is where we can fly to because Jesus died for us.



God, thank you for heaven, our eternal home with you. Help us to follow the example of Jesus and live like people who are on their way to infinite with you! Amen.



Share with one person what you believe about God and his love for all of us. It could be a parent, friend, or teacher.

Disney tag. One person is it. When someone is tagged, they have to shout a character from one of the Disney movies before they can be unfrozen by being tagged by another player.





DEVOTION 7: VIOLET

PRE K - 3RD



Can you think of something that is the color violet?

Do any of those things sound like things that would be popular with kings?

4TH & UP

What makes Jesus the King of Kings in our lives?

How can we show that Jesus is our King to others who do not know him like that?

1 TIMOTHY 6:11-16 (THIS BOOK IS A LETTER TO A YOUNG PASTOR NAMED TIMOTHY)



11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.



What do we think of when we think of violet or purple? Most people think of royalty, or kings. When kings were crowned, they often wore violet in the ceremony to signify their royal standing. When Jesus is pictured, he often has a sash of violet, or violet robes. This is to signify that he is King of Kings. Jesus is called Lord of Lord and King of Kings. Jesus is our King, but he walked as one of us. He came to earth as a human and took our place on the cross for us. He took his crown of heaven off and put on his crown of thorns. He gave up his royal place and came down to Earth to save us. That is what makes him King of Kings.



God, you are our king. We look to you to guide us and help us live our lives in your love and peace. Grow us in our endurance, and faith so we can live in your light today and forever. Amen.

Coaches, challenge your players to take opportunities to show others that Jesus is their King by putting others first and sharing His message with everyone they can.

One person in the middle (the king) and have the team gather around the king in a small circle and practice 'heading' the ball back and forth from the king to the ring of players.





DEVOTION 8: RAINBOW REVIEW

PRE K - 3RD

What does the rainbow represent?
Can you name all the colors of the rainbow?

4TH & UP

Why did God flood the earth?
Can you name all the colors of the rainbow? What does the rainbow represent?

WE READ THIS VERSE OUR VERY FIRST WEEK OF SOCCER....GENESIS 9:15-16

15 "I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 16Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."



GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Today's message brings the colors of the rainbow together. The rainbow represents God's covenant with all living things on Earth. A covenant is just a promise. God promised He will never flood the earth again. God always keeps His promises. And we've been learning about Jesus and his death and resurrection. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we have the opportunity to step into another covenant (promise) of God. We can live with God's spirit inside of us, as well as a promise of heaven to come when our bodies are old and tired. By asking for forgiveness, God cleanses us from all sin just like God cleansed the earth when he sent the flood. The flood was a 'reset' for the earth, and forgiveness can be a reset for our lives. Our rainbow is not a physical representation, but when we accept Jesus into our hearts, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside and through us on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit is like a rainbow. We can know the Holy Spirit lives within us if we have the fruit of the Spirit (see list in Galatians) in our lives. The Holy Spirit is our "rainbow", the promise that God is with us always.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the colors of your world, and for the rainbow in the sky, which reminds us that you are a God who keeps promises. Help us to keep our promises to you and others. Amen.

Coaches, work with your teams to come up with a promise for this week's game. What is that one promise that your team will keep? Is it a positive attitude? Is it to help others up when they fall? How can we be a great example for the Lord this week?



THANK YOU FOR USING THIS DEVOTIONAL



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