



CENTENARY
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MIDDLE SCHOOL

CHRIST

OTHERS

SECOND



FIRST

Memory Verse for the Middle School: Philippians 2:5–11

Week 1: What is I AM 3RD?

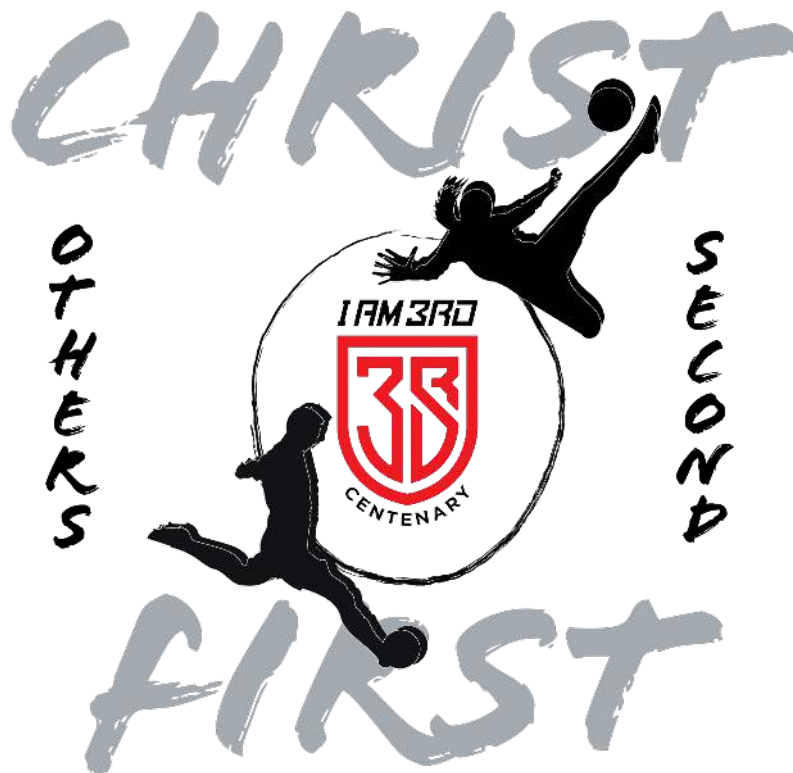
I AM 3RD is based on a simple belief that Jesus Christ is first, others are second, and I am third.

We strongly believe that Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives. (Matthew 25:40)

Doing our best in everything: We want to work at everything with all our heart, as if we are working for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Studying Scripture: We believe all Scripture is God-breathed (from God) and is useful for teaching, correcting, and training in goodness, so that through studying Scripture we may be equipped (ready) for every good work.

It is our prayer that we would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ through our weekly devotions and times of prayer, in order to help us learn more about Jesus Christ and His importance in our lives. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



Week 2: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...”

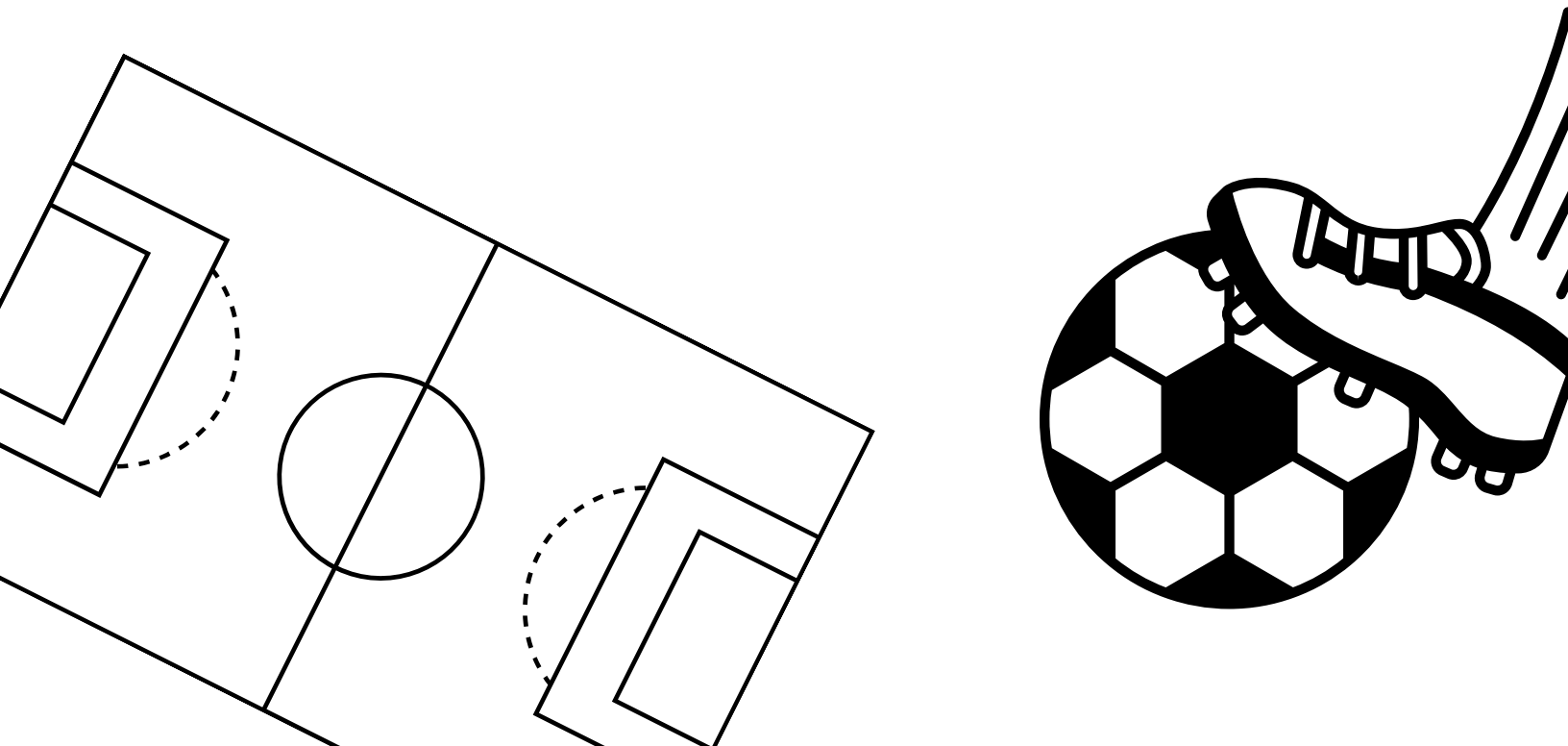
This soccer season we will be memorizing Philippians 2:5-11. In this passage, the Apostle Paul teaches us about Jesus’s mind and implores us to align ourselves with Jesus’s way of thinking. When I was growing up, I would occasionally see someone with a “What Would Jesus Do?” bracelet. This served as a reminder to make decisions that would align with Christ’s character. Paul is asking us to do something similar, to align our thoughts with Jesus’s in order to change how we think and behave in the world.

Questions:

What does Jesus think about the world? What could be a reminder for you to think like Jesus?

Memory Verse:

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...”





Week 3: “who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited”

As Christians, we believe in the Trinity. This means we believe in one God who has always existed as three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In this verse, Paul begins to discuss the Son taking on flesh and being born as a human named Jesus. Paul also teaches us how this monumental decision reveals Christ’s character. The eternal Son of God, who was a part of creating the whole universe and has power that we cannot even begin to understand, chooses to lay His power down. We may not think of ourselves as powerful, but we can follow the example of Jesus’s sacrifice. He did not see his position and power as something to use for Himself, but something to use for others. Paul calls those of us who follow Jesus to think the same way.

Questions:

Do you have any power or position you could lay down for others?
What would that look like?

Memory Verse:

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited”



Week 4: “...but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness. ”

Last week we discussed how Jesus did not see His position as something to exploit for His own gain. This week we turn to what Jesus did with His power. Paul teaches us that Jesus emptied Himself of His power and took on the role of a slave. Every Christmas, Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Because we celebrate it every year, it can be easy for us to lose touch with the power of the Christmas story. We believe the creator of all things and the most powerful being that ever has or will exist, was born into the world as a powerless human baby, to parents who were too poor to get him a crib to sleep in. How wild is that? Paul calls us to learn how to think like Jesus even in this, to take the wisdom and humility of the Christmas story and apply it to every day, not just once a year.

Questions:

What can we learn about Jesus’s character from the Christmas story?
How can we apply this character to our own lives?

Memory Verse:

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.”

Week 5: “And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.”

Last week we talked about how Jesus reveals His character through the Christmas story. In this verse Paul moves from Christmas towards

Easter as he discusses Jesus’s death on the cross. In the same way that we can miss how awesome it is that God takes on human form, we can miss the humility of Jesus’s death on the cross. Even though God has eternally existed, He was humble enough to die for us on a cross.

Paul points out two very pivotal points that all humans experience, birth and death. He reminds us that Jesus did not have to go through those trials, but He chose to for our sake. Paul also reveals the true character of Jesus is humility. Altogether he is calling us to be people of radical humility like Jesus.

Questions:

What is radical humility? What would it look like for you to show humility like Jesus?

Memory Verse:

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.”





Week 6: “Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name...”

Last week we discussed the radical humility of Jesus’s death on the cross. This week, Paul pivots from discussing how Jesus brought himself low to how God has exalted Jesus in light of His humility. God exalts Jesus and gives Him the name above every name because Jesus was willing to lower Himself even to the point of death. Humility is not a very popular virtue in our culture. We normally do not think of others before we think of ourselves. Living out this call to follow Jesus’s example of humility is really hard. Thankfully, we do not have to do it alone. Jesus’s sacrifice is not just an example for us to follow, it is the event that gives us freedom from sin. Because the Holy Spirit lives with us, we are capable of following Jesus’s example.

Questions:

Can you think of a time when you thought of others before yourself?
Can you think of a time when God honored your humility?

Memory Verse:

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name...”



Week 7: “so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth...”

Last week we talked about how God honored Jesus because of His humility and how the Holy Spirit helps us to live a humble life. As Paul continues to teach us about Jesus’s exaltation, he begins to use royal language. A king may have some people who bow before them, but Jesus will have everyone bow before Him. This is why He is called the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. God honors Jesus’s humility by raising Him from the lowest position, death on a cross, to the highest position, King of Kings. When we are humble God honors us, too! This is why Jesus says, “The last shall be first and the first shall be last.” This is God’s pattern; He honors those who humble themselves.

Questions:

What does God’s pattern of honoring humility teach us about Him?

Memory Verse:

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth...”

Week 8: “...and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Even when Jesus is exalted by God, He does not stop being humble. When every knee is bowed and every tongue confesses that Jesus is Lord, He still gives all the glory to God the Father. Despite all of the pain He endured, and sacrifices He made, He does not accept the honor for Himself. Jesus points to God the Father. We may accumulate wealth and honor in this life. and that is a wonderful thing, there is nothing wrong with having talents, power or money. What does matter is what we do with those gifts. Rather than keeping the glory for ourselves, we should follow Jesus’s example and always give glory to God. All good things come from Him, and without Him, we would have nothing. When we begin to think of ourselves as self-sufficient apart from God, we have forgotten to be thankful for His numerous blessings. No matter how we excel in life, God deserves the glory.

Questions:

How can you give God the glory for your talents? What are some ways you can express your thankfulness to God?



Memory Verse:

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Great work! You have memorized the whole passage for this soccer season!

Week 9: Summary

This soccer season we have memorized Philippians 2:5-11. This passage teaches us that through Jesus's ministry He was consistently displaying radical humility. God honored that humility by elevating Jesus to the role of King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The author of this passage, the Apostle Paul, calls us to follow in Jesus's example and live lives of radical humility. In Philippians 2:2-3 Paul writes, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." This is a really hard lesson to follow, but this is the example that Jesus paved for us. Even though He was God and had every right to consider Himself better than us, He did not. He considered us better than Himself, and He became like us in order to save us. When we follow in Jesus's example, we have the honor and privilege of living humble lives for the sake of others. When we follow Jesus in this way, we can trust that God will honor us and have no need to collect honor for ourselves.

Questions:

How have you seen humility lived out in someone on your soccer team?

Memory Verse:

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."



Week 10: Season Reflection and Review

What will you take away from the devotional time this season? What are some memories you made?





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