



## WEEK 1: THE COACH- 3rd through 8th grade

**This year during our devotions we are going to discuss different soccer roles as we unfold some of God's principles for our lives...What are some of the roles or positions you know in soccer?**

Good job! But there is one ROLE each of you has missed, and it is a VERY important role on a team....its the (\*point to yourself\*) COACH! That's right!

**What are some important things a coach does for a team?**

Yes! As your soccer coach I need to set up practices so you can develop your skills, set up game plans, keep my team together/unified, give you a common goal, give you guidelines, make the team better, keep you safe and be a good mentor.

I want to tell you a quick story in the Bible and *you tell me* who is the "coach" in charge in this story: In Judges 7 we find the story of Gideon...a farmer who was chosen to defeat the Midianite people for GOD's people. In the beginning of the story Gideon was told by God "You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength." In other words, God did not want Gideon to go into battle with SO many men that the Israelites would be able to say it was by their own strength and not God's. So God first told Gideon to send home anyone who was afraid... this "play" dropped the warriors from 22,000 to 10,000!!! But God still thought there were TOO MANY!!! So he told Gideon to take his warriors down to a stream and separate the men who drank water while cupping their hands from those who got down on their knees and drank the water directly from the stream with their mouths (God certainly has some weird ways of doing things, huh?:) God told Gideon to send home the men who used their hands, leaving ONLY 300 men to fight the Midianites! That means they went from 22,000 to 300 warriors. Gideon late one night did as God further instructed and divided the 300 men into three groups to surround the Midianite camp, and gave each warrior a ram's horn and a clay jar with a torch in it. The three hundred men were instructed to blow their ram's horns and break their clay jars while holding their torches in their Left hands. They did just that and shouted "A sword for the Lord and Gideon!" When they did this, the Lord caused the Midianites to run around scared and panicked, the Midianite warriors in the camp began to fight against each other and many fled the camp. THAT is how the Israelites defeated the Midianites. Crazy right? God planned for Gideon to win the battle with only 300 men blowing horns and breaking clay jars... they didn't even have to raise their swords to fight!

**Who in this story was the man with the plan, the COACH and leader of this fight?** Not Gideon but GOD...this was God's "game plan", God lead them and brought them together for a purpose, AND gave them victory!  
**Why does the Bible say God wanted to do it this weird, unconventional way with few warriors and clay pots?**  
 To show that HE was the one Who led this battle and won the battle; He was to be feared

**Did you know, God wants to be the coach of your life? Much like each of you got a phone call or a message saying "you're on the team" ...God has called you to be on HIS team but now you have accept the invitation....look at what incredible things He did with Gideon! He wants to do incredible things with your life too. Next week we will talk about how to accept that invitation on HIS TEAM.**

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

(Lord God thank You so much for each of these kiddos...their strengths, their talents, their character. We ask you would be with us this season, help us to grow as a team. Thank you for choosing each of us to be a part of Your plan and mission. I ask Lord you would help us to know and understand that more. Amen.)