

# God and Football

## Life Group Leaders Guide

### Objective

This guide contains the information and questions you will need to lead a life group study during our current sermon series. Our aim is to spark Spirit-led, Bible-centered conversations that anyone can participate in regardless of how biblically literate they may or may not be. **The win** that we want you to experience is when your group members **connect** more closely with each other and with God so that they are encouraged to move forward in living out their faith.

### Directions

The *Purpose* and *Move* sections are for the leader to read to the group to provide clarity. **Do not feel pressured to cover all the questions.** Decide which ones may work best for your group. You will see brief notes interspersed between groups of questions to help give the group context for their answers. The *Notes and Commentary* section (when included) is optional reading for the leader to get background information and better understanding of the passages before leading the discussion.

### Series Overview

This will be a series about spiritual warfare, utilizing football as an analogy of that. Armor of God, and three different Bible accounts of spiritual warfare: David & Goliath; Daniel in the Lions den; Elijah on Mt. Carmel.

### God and Football Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic of sermon and life group
1	1/27	Saints vs. Raiders
2	2/3	<b>(Socials)</b>
3	2/10	Saints vs. Lions
4	2/17	Championship Game

## The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

# ***God and Football - Saints vs. Raiders***

## The Big Idea

Gear up for battle.

## Flow of Study

**Icebreaker:** Share about a time that you won at something (sporting events, academic awards, a contest, etc.). What did it require of you to win?

**Move #1:** Let's begin by unpacking any thoughts that you took away from this weekend's sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the message this weekend? Any insights or questions?
2. Was there anything specific that was helpful to you in thinking about how you can better protect yourself against Satan's attacks by putting on the armor God supplies?

**Move #2:** 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." Let's now look at an instance where Satan was able to lead two people astray and analyze his plan of attack.

### **Read Genesis 3:1-7 (NIV)**

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

3. Here we see that the Bible says that “the serpent” (Satan) is “crafty,” or some translations say “cunning,” “subtle,” or “shrewd.” What comes to mind when you think about these words?
4. How is Satan’s “craftiness” displayed in the way he interacts with Eve?

**Note to leader:** Satan appeared to be concerned about Eve’s well-being. He twisted God’s words. He appealed to her needs and her sense of self-value.

5. In this instance, Satan made God look like the bad guy, tempting Eve to justify her sin. Where have you seen yourself justifying sin or being tempted?

**Note:** Satan tells Eve that she needs this fruit to be “like God.” In other words, he made her feel that she wasn’t enough. Yet, God had already created her “in his likeness” (Gen. 1:27).

6. What are some lies about God or yourself that you have been tempted to believe during moments of weakness?

**Move #3:** Next let’s look at a passage where Satan tries to defeat Jesus and see how Jesus resists and trusts in God’s Word.

### **Read Luke 4:1-13 (NIV)**

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you carefully;  
11 they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

7. Compare this account with the one we just read in Genesis 3. Do you see any similarity in the tactics that Satan uses against Jesus that he used against Eve?
8. How does Jesus defend himself against each of Satan's attacks? What can you take away from that and apply to your own moments of temptation?
9. Psalm 119:11 says, "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." How can knowing and memorizing scripture help us deflect Satan's attempts to lead us astray?
10. Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit" (Luke 4:1). What role does the Holy Spirit have in helping us to overcome Satan's attacks, and how do we access his help?
11. Jesus was *physically* weak when Satan attacked him, but he was *spiritually* strong. What are some other ways that we can prepare ourselves spiritually so we are ready for Satan's attacks when we are weak, angry, lonely, or tired?

**Next Steps:** The following are things you could challenge your members to do in order to take what you studied in this curriculum further.

- Go back to the passage from the sermon this week (Ephesians 6:13-17). Spend some time meditating on it and try to memorize the different pieces of armor mentioned.

**Prayer:** End your study with a time of praying with and for each other. Take requests, but be sure to pray also about what you've discussed today.