

FEBRUARY'S THEME

PERFORM

SCRIPTURE John 11:1-44

BOTTOM LINE Jesus gives life that death can't take.

MEMORY VERSES JOHN 11:25-26

LIFE APP DON'T LET THE FEAR OF DEATH ROB YOU OF A FULL AND BEAUTIFUL LIFE



•Tonight the students will hear from a panel of their peers who are involved in sports as well as coaches from their schools.

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:

THINK ABOUT THIS

Tonight is the second in our faith and work series "Perform." Throughout this month we will help the students think about how they can integrate their faith with their work in fine arts, sports, and school. Tonight we'll think about sports as a context where our faith can make a big difference. This guide has two sections tonight. The first reflects directly on the question of how to integrate faith and sports and includes the questions that we asked the panel. The second is a short devotional tied to our journey through the Gospel of John. The devotional is related to the topic, so it can be another useful avenue for discussion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Connect

- Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your "highs" and "lows" with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week.

Message

- What sports have you been a part of as a participant or as a spectator?
- Talk about how you came to be involved in athletics and how it has influenced your faith. Was it something that you came to through your family or was there another route?
- How do athletics help you to connect with God or the community of God in better or deeper ways? Can you think of a specific moment where that happened?
- How do athletics give you perspective for things like worshiping God, prayer, or discipleship outside the context of church? Are there moments in sports where you feel a deeper connection to God than you do at church? How so?
- In what way would you say that your leading or participating in the sports demonstrates something about God for other people? Is it something that you are conscious of normally? Should you be?
- How have sports been a gift that God has given you?
- In what ways can that gift be distorted or broken in your experience? Are there times when sports can be harmful to the life that God wants us to have? How so?



- What would you say is the logical first step for you to connect your faith to your involvement with sports? Even if you don't play sports, you live in a culture that is deeply connected (Super Bowl?) to them.

Devotional: John 11:1-44

- Where were you when Case Keenum connected with Steffon Diggs to beat the Saints? I was in my family room watching with my two little boys. Like many of you, we had already experienced the full range of human emotion. Elation in the first half to despair as Drew Brees did was Drew Brees does when he plays the Vikings. So, when the "Minnny Miracle" happened, it was like something supernatural happened. In the days after that game, sports radio, ESPN, and everyone else in football-land couldn't stop replaying that moment. What was interesting for our purposes today was that as we watched the days after, we knew the way that things were going to go in the end. Diggs didn't step out of bounds. He didn't get tackled. There was no flag for offensive holding. They won. The first chapter of the Gospel of John reminds us that Jesus is the God of all time. Jesus was there in the beginning, is here with us now, and he also stands in the future, knowing how things will turn out in the end. When Jesus arrives on the scene of Lazarus' death, his knowledge of the future leaves him no less heartbroken about the present, the text says that he wept with Mary and Martha. Jesus is not blind or distant from our pain. Rather, through his Spirit and the community of the church, he joins us in it. Not that doing so erases death from life--death is a part of life--but so that we know that death doesn't get the last word. Our lives are going to come with pain and heartache. But the good news of the Gospel is that our pain and heartache doesn't need to overcome us because in the resurrection, Jesus has overcome it. This season of Lent leads us closer and closer to Easter where we proclaim that truth at the top of our lungs in song, prayer, and worship. My prayer is that you would begin to claim that truth here, now, in the midst of the ups and downs of your life.
- Who do you identify with in this story? Mary, Martha, Lazarus, or Jesus? Why?
- What are the current circumstances that seem to be overcoming you? How might seeing them through Jesus eyes change the way you work through this season?

EXTRAS

I Am Second

What You Need: phone with internet connection

What you Do: There are all kinds of videos from some of our favorite athletes talking about the way that they integrate their faith with their lives as athletes. Some that you might check out are: Sam Bradford, Shawn Johnson, Matt Barkley, and Tony Dungy.

JUST FOR FUN

Viking Trivia

What You Need: Candy Bar for the winner and the questions provided.

What You Do: Have the students keep track of their answers; paper, rock, scissors for a winner.

1. When did the franchise begin: 1961
2. What was the first team the Vikings beat?: Bears
3. What position did Fran Tarkenton play?: Quarterback
4. Who is the owner of the Vikings?: Wilf Family
5. Who did the Vikings play in their first Super Bowl?: Chiefs
6. What is the nickname given to the Vikings defense in the 1960s?: Purple People Eaters
- 7 Which quarter back has the most yards in a single season? Warren Moon
8. What is the result of the Vikings most recent Super Bowl? ????