

# Football Sunday

February 7, 2016

Today we heard inspiring stories from professional football players who have struggles and challenges in life, just like we all do. These men are true overcomers, and their stories can encourage us to live lives of faith and hope. As we go through today's Life Group study and discussion questions, let's begin by praying that Jesus will reveal to us the ways He is calling us to take new steps of faith, moving beyond what is comfortable and into a life of owning His mission.

## Thomas Davis

A story about a man who was at the crossroads of either quitting or moving forward.

Thomas shared two stories of when he was down due to health problems. The first was an abnormal coronary artery. The second was when he tore his ACL three times. He persevered through these times and was such an inspiration to others, he won the Walter Payton Man of the Year award. During his struggles, Thomas said that this verse really helped him:  
**“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” - 1 Corinthians 15:58**

We all stumble and fall. But what if the world needs you to get back up? Discuss in your group what you are struggling with right now. Are you down? Do you need Jesus' help to get back up and keep going? Discuss and pray with each other.

## Drew Brees

A man called to live by faith.

Drew shared a story of how he dislocated his shoulder and thought he'd never play football again. Through this journey of recovery and walking forward in faith, he and his wife felt called to move to Louisiana--not just to play football, but to be a light to a community struggling with the aftermath

of hurricane Katrina. Four years later, he led the Saints to Superbowl victory. Drew shared this verse that really helped him through this time: **“for we walk by faith, not by sight.” - 2 Corinthians 5:7**

God’s plans for us will always require that we see through the eye’s of faith. The most unlikely situations often help us experience God through the eyes of faith.

Is God calling you to something bigger than you think you can handle? Is He asking you to step out in faith to own His mission in a way you’ve never done before? Discuss this in your group and pray for each other to have the eyes of faith in these situations.

## **Trent Dilfer**

A man who had his faith tested in the fires of personal tragedy.

Trent shared his powerful story of when his five year old son got sick and after a long fight in the hospital, went to be with the Lord. Although this was the hardest thing Trent and his wife ever went through, and arguably is one of the hardest things anyone can go through, Trent said that the Lord gave him an amazing feeling of peace through it all. Trent also said that through this situation, God revealed His love for Trent and for all humanity by reminding Trent how God gave His only Son to die for everyone (John 3:16).

How does it make you feel to know that God gave His son to die for you? How does this loving sacrifice make you want to live your life differently? Discuss and pray for each other to live lives of thanksgiving, devoted to God and owning His mission.