

Summary

Pastor Chris delivers a sermon drawing parallels between football and the Christian life, using the concept of four downs in football to represent four stages of life. He explains how first down represents birth and childhood, second down represents school years, third down represents marriage and career, and fourth down represents old age. Throughout each stage, we face different challenges, but the ultimate goal is to 'score' by accepting Jesus as Savior before time runs out. The sermon emphasizes that unlike in football where some players fall short of the goal line, anyone can score in life by trusting Christ.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for Your presence in our lives. As we discuss the stages of our journey and how we can apply wisdom to our days, open our hearts to receive what You want to teach us. Help us understand where we are in our spiritual journey and what plays You want us to run. Give us clarity of mind and receptive hearts as we learn from Your Word today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What was your favorite game or sport to play as a child, and what did you enjoy most about it?

Key Verses

- Psalm 90:12
- 1 Corinthians 9:24
- 2 Timothy 4:7
- Hebrews 12:1
- Romans 10:13
- Romans 10:9

Questions

- Which of the four downs (stages of life) do you feel you're currently in, and what challenges are you facing in this stage?
- Pastor Chris mentioned that in football, 'every play matters.' How does this apply to our spiritual lives?

- How has God helped you 'score' or overcome obstacles during difficult 'fourth down' moments in your life?
- The sermon mentions that we need to 'run God's play, not our play.' What does this mean to you, and how have you seen this truth play out in your life?
- In what ways have you experienced God picking up the 'penalty flags' that Satan throws in your life?
- Pastor Chris mentioned Tom Brady saying 'there's got to be more.' Have you ever felt this way despite achievements in your life? How did you respond?
- How does the concept of 'numbering our days' (Psalm 90:12) change how you approach your daily life and priorities?
- The sermon emphasized the importance of forgiveness to move forward. Is there someone you need to forgive to advance in your spiritual journey?

Life Application

This week, take time to identify which 'down' you're currently in spiritually. Then, choose one specific area where you need to run God's play instead of your own. Whether it's forgiving someone who has hurt you, spending more time in prayer and Bible study, or sharing your faith with someone who needs to hear about Jesus, commit to following God's playbook. Write down your commitment and share it with someone in the group who can pray for you and hold you accountable.

Key Takeaways

- Life, like football, has four stages (downs), and how we handle each one determines our final outcome.
- We need to recognize which stage of life we're in and apply wisdom appropriate to that stage.
- Unlike in football where some fall short, anyone can 'score' in life by accepting Jesus as Savior.
- We must run God's plays from His playbook (the Bible) rather than creating our own strategies.
- When Satan throws 'penalty flags' in our lives, Jesus picks them up and declares 'no penalty' when we're saved.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your playbook that guides us through every down of life. We're grateful that You've made a way for us to score the ultimate touchdown through Your sacrifice on

the cross. Help us to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom as we navigate each stage of life. Give us the courage to tackle our problems, block our fears, and score every chance we get for Your kingdom. For those of us facing fourth down situations, remind us that You are with us and that Your grace is sufficient. Thank You that in You, we are more than conquerors. In Jesus' name, amen.