



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 13: Purged

Suggested Week of Use: February 25, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 19:12-26

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### News Story Summary

In a unique and somewhat controversial move, the International Football Association Board (IFAB) recently announced a proposal to introduce blue cards into soccer matches. A vote is expected to take place in early March, though it's not clear if the measure will pass. If implemented, the new cards would be different from the traditional yellow cards (warning) and red cards (ejection).

Blue cards would be used to penalize verbal abuse of referees, as well as “flopping” and “cynical” fouls where players attack their opponents rather than the ball. Players shown a blue card would be sent off the field and spend ten minutes in a penalty area (similar to a hockey penalty box). Players have dubbed this area the “sin bin.”

These new cards are designed for offenses that require more than a yellow card, but less than a red card. In terms of enforcement, blue cards would be treated like yellow cards. So, two blue cards—or a yellow card and blue card—in a single match would result in a red card and ejection. If approved, this would be the first new card introduced since 1970 when the yellow card became part of the game.

For more about this story, search “Soccer Blue Cards.”

### Engage

To supplement Engage, encourage adults to rate their knowledge of soccer rules on a scale of 1 (no idea) to 5 (know it all). Ask: *What do the yellow cards and red cards represent?* Explain that soccer players know the rules and the consequences for yellow card and red card violations. Share the information about blue cards and discuss how that might change the game. Emphasize again that players will be warned ahead of time about the rules and the penalties for infractions. Note that being warned always leaves us without excuse. Explain that this session focuses on a group of people who ignored God's warning and paid a high price for it.

### Challenge

To supplement Challenge, remind adults about the possible introduction of blue cards into soccer. Explain that soccer cards help define what is acceptable and not acceptable within the game. The rules, fouls, and penalties are clearly communicated and understood by players. Discuss the questions from Challenge (Leader Guide, p. 150). Ask: *How are God's warnings intended for our good? Why does destruction come to those who dishonor Him?*