



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 4: The Gospel

Suggested Week of Use: September 22, 2024

Core Passage: Acts 15:7-9,22-31

News Story Summary

Late August brought the beginning of the 2024-25 college football season—and a new era of communication. For the first time, games involving Football Bowl Subdivision teams will allow wireless coach-to-player communication. Under the new rule, coaches can communicate with one player on offense and one player on defense via a one-way radio in the players' helmets. These players are identified by a green dot on their helmets. Also under the new rule, the coach-to-player communication will be turned off with fifteen seconds left on the play clock or when the ball is snapped, whichever comes first. While some coaches believe this new rule will prevent miscommunication and signal-stealing, others think it will add a layer of complication and confusion to the game.

For more about this story, search “2024 college football uses helmet communication”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, enlist the help of several volunteers to play a game of “telephone.” You will whisper a sentence to the first person in the line. That person will whisper the statement to the next person, and so on until the last person hears the statement. That person will say the sentence aloud. You will then share the original statement. You can repeat this process with new players and new statements as time allows.

Say: This game shows what happens when people receive a message differently than it is stated. Share the story of college football's use of coach-to-player helmet communication for the first time in history. Ask: What could be the benefits and drawbacks of this new rule? Explain that today's Bible study emphasizes the importance of direct, clear communication when it comes to sharing the gospel.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, recall the story of coach-to-player communication in college football. Distribute notecards and pens to each adult. *Say: Today we talked about the importance of clearly communicating the truths and implications of the gospel. Direct adults to use the notecards to write down a simple summary of the gospel. Encourage a few volunteers to share their summaries. Then call on adults to name the similarities among the explanations. Talk about how these common threads provide a foundation for sharing the gospel. Say: The truth of the gospel should be the focus of our church as we seek to make a difference in the world for God's kingdom. Close in prayer.*