



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Session 11: Covenant Relationship
Suggested Week of Use: November 16, 2025
Core Passage: Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19

News Story Summary

It happens every season. Few professions reward success and punish failure as quickly as college football coaching. And this fall, several major college programs have parted ways with their head coaches during the season. For example, Auburn recently dismissed Hugh Freeze after the Tigers lost five out of six games after starting 3-0. Auburn made the decision even though Freeze's contract included a buyout worth more than \$15 million.

Freeze joined coaches like James Franklin (Penn State), Brian Kelly (Louisiana State), Billy Napier (Florida), and Mike Gundy (Oklahoma State) in the unemployment line. Schools often cite issues like poor performance and unmet expectations for taking a new direction. When a team thrives, the coach is celebrated. When the results start to slide, though, the consequences can come swiftly.

For more about this story, search "Auburn fires Freeze."

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, say: *Benjamin Franklin supposedly said that death and taxes were the only guarantees in life.* Encourage the group to suggest other "guarantees" and list them on the board. After a few minutes, suggest that one sure thing this time of year is called the "college coaching carousel." Explain that this is when schools fire their head football coaches in the middle of the season. Share the story about Auburn's coaching change, along with other examples of fired coaches so far this season. Highlight "poor performance" and "unmet expectations" as two major reasons coaches get fired.

Share that today's session comes from Deuteronomy 28, where Moses described Israel's covenant relationship with God. Explain that God had expectations for His people, and their ability to obey Him would determine whether they would be blessed or cursed. Say: *Just as a coach's future depends on faithfully leading a team to meet its standard, Israel's future depended on faithfully walking in God's ways.*

Challenge

After summarizing the main points from the PSG, return to the example of college football coaching changes. Say: *Hugh Freeze's buyout exceeded \$15 million. When you add up the buyouts being paid to fired coaches this year, the figure is now past \$182 million.* Point out that in some cases, the consequences of getting fired seem positive. Ask: *How is that different from the curses for disobedience spelled out in Deuteronomy 28? How can understanding the consequences of our sin help us become more obedient to what God is doing in our lives?*

Encourage adults to think about a time when they knew what was right but chose their own way instead. Remind them that we serve a God of mercy who will take us back when we turn away from sin and return to Him. Close the session in prayer, thanking God for our covenant relationship with Him through Jesus. Ask Him to help each adult to cultivate a heart that obeys Him out of love and gratitude.