

Welcome to a Year of Celebration!

Week 6: February 6-13, 2022

Celebrate the Super Bowl

This year, we are focusing on who God is and how we can celebrate him and the life that he offers to us. We will draw deeper into a relationship with the Lord through examining his nature and desire for personal intimacy with us as his people, and we are going to do so in such a fun way! We are going to journey in 2022 through practical ways to celebrate various holidays! We will look at many of your favorite celebrations: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day and much more. We will explore the historic, liturgical holidays of the year, learn about the Jewish festivals of the Bible days, and even consider some of the celebrations of other religious faiths. I'm so glad you will be on this journey with us.

In this packet, you will find some ideas for you to grow closer to God, your family, and others. Nothing is required. It is all for fun and your personal enjoyment and growth. There are enough activities that you could do one or two per day during the week if you want. If you don't want to do something, skip it. If another idea comes to mind, do it. Watch for God's abundant goodness and celebrate it.

Come Join Us as We
CELEBRATE GOD!



**“They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.”**

Dr. Patrick Wilson

(Psalm 145:7)

2022

Video Devotional

Go to Patrick Wilson's YouTube page and watch the video devotional for this week: Celebrate Super Bowl. Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- What do you enjoy most about the Super Bowl?
- Are you cheering for the Rams, Bengals, or neither one?
- How is God like a coach?
- How is the community of faith (church) like a team?
- What gifts/talents/abilities has God give you? Others in the family?
- How can you use your gifts to serve Jesus and others?
- What will you have to sacrifice to serve Jesus in this way?
- What will you gain by serving Jesus in this way?

Craft: Mini-Cornhole

1. Using the toilet paper tube as a guide, draw a circle about 1/3 of the way down on the top center of the box lid.
2. Carefully cut out the circle with scissors or a box cutter.
3. Decorate the box lid to look like a football field, a field goal, or other sports themed decorations.
4. Turn the box top over and use the glue gun to glue the two toilet paper tubes to the underside of the box top (one on each corner) just above the cut out hole for stand legs.
5. Fold the piece of brown felt in half and cut out two identical pieces (approximately 1" x 2") in the shape of a football (oval).
6. Place the cotton ball between the two pieces of felt and glue the felt pieces together with the cotton ball inside.
7. Draw stitching onto the football with a marker. Take turns seeing who can "score" by tossing the ball into the hole.

Supplies:

- Cardboard Box Lid
- 2 Toilet Paper Tubes
- Scissors/Box Cutter
- Glue Gun & Glue
- Brown Felt
- Cotton Ball
- Markers



Foods to Prepare

Next to Thanksgiving, the Super Bowl is the biggest food holiday in the United States. According to thedailymeal.com, these are the 15 most popular foods to eat and share during the big game.

15. Giant Subs
14. Desserts
13. Chili
12. Pulled Pork Sandwiches
11. Sliders
10. Deviled Eggs
9. Nachos
8. Pigs in a Blanket
7. Potato Skins
6. Guacamole
5. Seven Layer Dip
4. Pizza
3. Spinach Artichoke Dip
2. Buffalo Chicken Dip
1. Chicken Wings

It is not the healthiest list of dinner options, but try your hand at making one of these Super Bowl foods and enjoy the festivities with your family and friends. If possible, use the game as an opportunity to invite over neighbors, coworkers, classmates, or your church small group. Some may enjoy the game, but everyone will enjoy the time of connection and the delicious foods.

Activity: Sports as a Family

Time to get outside and work off some of those extra calories. Depending on the weather, get outside and play together as a family. The goal is not competition as much as it is to spend time together. Here are a few examples, but you can pick any activity. Do something everyone enjoys.

1. Hide and Go Seek
 2. Touch Football
 3. Basketball (H.O.R.S.E.)
 4. Go for a Walk/Jog
 5. Go for a Bike Ride
 6. Try out Pickleball
 7. Play Catch
 8. Go Sledding
 9. Play Tennis
 10. Go on a Hike
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Movies to Watch

If you are movie fan, pick out a favorite movie to watch alone or with family/friends. Here are some inspirational movies about football, but you certainly are not limited to this list. Pop some popcorn, curl up on the couch, and enjoy the show!

Football Movies:

- Facing the Giants
- Rudy
- Remember the Titans
- Friday Night Lights
- Brian's Song
- The Blind Side
- Jerry Maguire
- We are Marshall
- The Express
- Gridiron Gang
- Invincible
- The Waterboy
- Draft Day
- Radio
- The Replacements
- Heaven Can Wait
- Any Given Sunday
- The Longest Yard

Table Top Football

Make a paper "football" by folding a piece of paper into a triangular pattern and tucking in the final edge. Then sit across the table from each other. Flip a coin to see who goes first on offense.

To score a touchdown, the person flicks the football from his/her side of the table and tries to get the ball to land overhanging the opposite team's edge of the table (goal line). If successful, he/she gets 6 points and a chance to kick an extra point. Turn the football up on its side, holding it with one finger. The opposite player makes a goalpost with their hands. Flick the ball with the opposite hand. If it goes over the goalpost, you get an extra 1 point.

If a player is unsuccessful to score a touchdown, the opponent gets to flick the paper football from the location that it landed. If the ball goes off the table, the opposite team gets to restart from their side of the field.

Continue play until an agreed upon score or time limit.





Bible Study

“Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. “ (2 Tim. 2:5)

In each sport, there are rules. While we may not always like the rules, they are there for a purpose. The rules seek to provide clarity on how the game is played, fairness as players interact, and the provision for a victor in the contest. If an athlete is caught violating these rules, there are consequences that impact the game.

Consider some of the rules that Jesus taught us. Living victoriously means that we strive to follow his rules and seek to follow his instruction as our Coach. Jesus already claimed the ultimate victory for us through his death and resurrection. However, in our daily lives we should strive to do our best to follow his ways and trust his leadership. When we follow Jesus and his “rules,” we can know that we are participating in a winning game plan. Following his playbook enables us to experience God’s very best for our lives—the victory in Jesus.

Prayer Time

Watch the Super Bowl or another sports event, perhaps one that you are not very interested in or care about who wins/loses. Spend the game praying for the various people involved. Here are some ways you can spend the time praying during the contest:

- **ATHLETES:** protection from injury, focus to do his/her best, identity in who he/she is and not how he/she performs, academics/career, family, social interaction, come to/live out his/her faith, etc.
- **OFFICIALS:** ability to be impartial, strive for fairness, perseverance amidst opposition, family, career, faith journey, etc.
- **COACHES:** stay focused on development of players over winning, stability in career, additional responsibilities, family, faith journey, etc.
- **FANS:** kindness to opposing fans, not overindulging, safety to get home, etc.



Service: Clean Up a Local Park

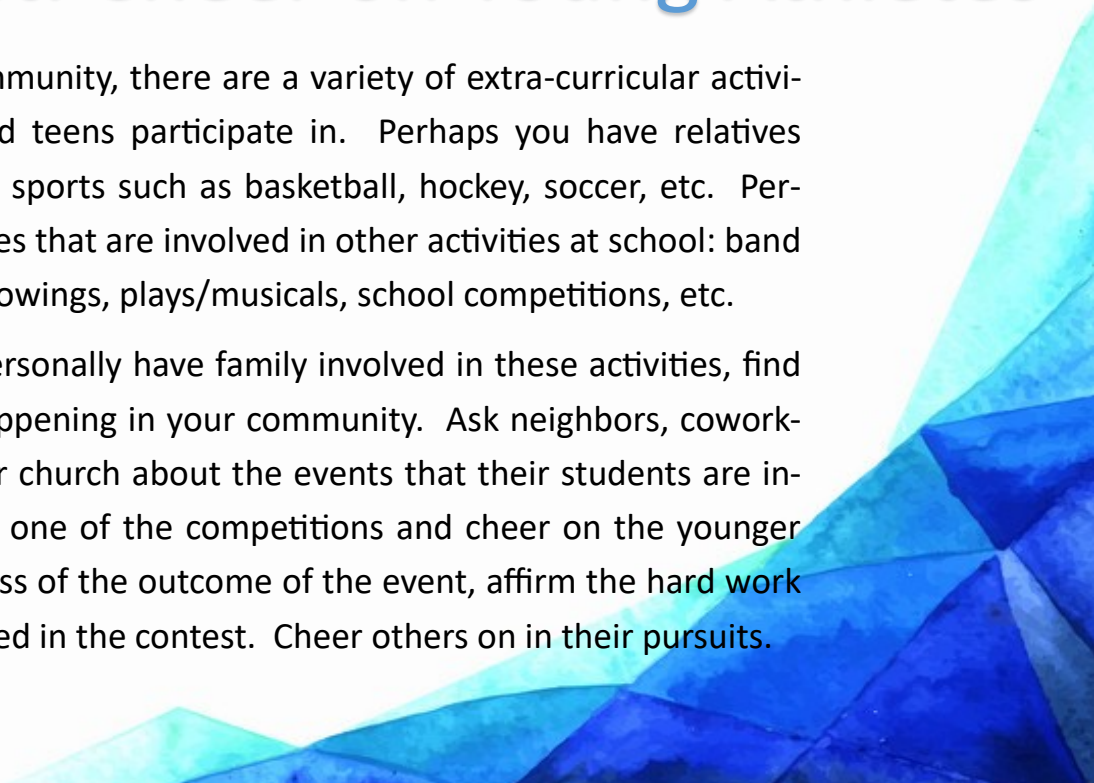
One of the best places for sports events to take place is the local park or public sports complex. These facilities are oftentimes maintained by the city's park and recreation department. However, this week, pitch in and help out.

If your team uses a particular park or field, go there. If not, pick one that is close to your house. Go on a prayer walk in the park. As you spend time praying, pick up trash that you see laying around. Pray for those you see in the park while you are there. Also, pray for the children that will use the park for upcoming activities. Ask God to put coaches in the lives of the kids that will teach them about the sport but also about sportsmanship, life skills, and other virtues. Pray for those that frequent the park to walk or picnic with their families. Pray for the employees of the park, too. While you help clean up the facilities, pray that God will remove the trash from our lives and communities, cleaning us up, too.

Connect: Cheer on Young Athletes

In virtually every community, there are a variety of extra-curricular activities that children and teens participate in. Perhaps you have relatives playing winter/spring sports such as basketball, hockey, soccer, etc. Perhaps you have relatives that are involved in other activities at school: band concerts, livestock showings, plays/musicals, school competitions, etc.

Even if you do not personally have family involved in these activities, find out about what is happening in your community. Ask neighbors, coworkers or parents in your church about the events that their students are involved in. Go out to one of the competitions and cheer on the younger generation. Regardless of the outcome of the event, affirm the hard work and discipline exhibited in the contest. Cheer others on in their pursuits.



Worship

Carve out some time to listen to worship music, hum or sing along. Here are some great songs to get you started. These songs focus on God providing us victory. Look them up on YouTube if you don't have them in your music repertoire.

Pick your own songs and spend time worshipping and celebrating who God is to you and all the ways that he has blessed your life.

Victory Worship Songs:

- My Victory
- Chain Breaker
- See a Victory
- Victory in Jesus
- I Will Rise
- In Christ Alone/The Solid Rock
- Overcome
- Unstoppable God
- Lion and the Lamb
- Rescuer

Challenge: Most Valuable Player

This week, make a list of some of the “most valuable player/people” (MVP) in your life. This could include family members, teachers, coaches, friends, mentors, pastors, or other significant role models. If they are still living, take time to thank some or all of them by visiting, calling, mailing them a card, emailing, messaging, or texting them. Share with them how much they influenced your life and the impact it has had on who you are as a person.

“Football is a great deal like life in that it teaches that work, sacrifice, perseverance, competitive drive, selflessness and respect for authority is the price that each and every one of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile. “

—Vince Lombardi