

God's Playbook for Life
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On the playing field of life, God's team and the Devil's team engage in fierce competition, each one trying to move in directions the other one doesn't want to go, each one trying to score touchdowns.

God has given us a three instruction team playbook for life in this game. Follow it, and we are sure to score.

First, leave the bleachers and benches and get in the game. Disciples of Jesus are not spectators in the stands. Disciples of Jesus do not sit on the bench or park in the pews. Disciples of Jesus are players on the field. As players in this game we are important. So is how we play the game. What each of us contributes can help move the team forward to the goal of our high calling. Second, remember that the huddle is not the game. Huddles aren't bad. We need huddles to make sure everyone is on the same page and all signals are clear. Even Jesus traveled and huddled with a "team." In any contest, victory is gained through a combination of strength, skill, and good timing. Good timing comes from knowing when to huddle, and when to break and run a play. Christian life uses the huddle as a place to check in, keep signals straight, and confirm the play. But the game is not in the huddle. In fact, spend too long discussing things in the huddle and we will be penalized for delay of game. We will find ourselves moving the wrong way down the field. We huddle up on Sunday morning in order to hike out into a Monday world. That's where the play-action takes place.

Third, we need to always keep the ball in play. Whatever happens, don't drop the ball! Even when our mission is tackled by opponents or set back by situations beyond our control, we can keep the gospel in play by pitching it to others alongside us or by passing it to those in front. Sometimes even a "Hail Mary" might be in order, but whatever happens, keep the ball in play. The lions may be licking their chops. Nero may be fiddling while Rome burns. But the lion is not the ultimate power and the Neros of our world do not have the final word. God does. We play this game of life under the providence and protection and direction of the hand of God. We score by keeping on keeping on for Him!