

News Story Summary

Football season is well underway. High school, college, and professional games can be seen almost any day of the week! We are a nation who loves our football. What's one thing most every team has in common? Every team has a coach (or many coaches!). While the players have access to their coach, it may be a different story for the coach's family.

Coaches on the college and professional level often bring home hefty salaries—but their families may pay a hefty price. Wives and children of these coaches know that, when football time is here, their husbands and fathers may not be available.

It's a tough balancing act for these families. Many wives take on the roles of mother and father, breadwinner, repairman, disciplinarian, and decision-maker. They must understand and embrace the dynamics of being a single-parent for a season and then adjusting when football season is over and their husband re-joins the family.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “married to the game coaches wives.”)

Focus Attention

Begin by briefly discussing the current football news for teams in your county or for favorite college or professional teams in your area. Expect loyal fans to have strong opinions!

Say: Radio and television sports channels are filled with every score, statistic, injury report, and detail you could ever want to know about the teams and their coaches. But we don't often hear about the families of the coaches.

Share highlights from the story (stories) you found on the Internet concerning the lives of those who live with a football coach. Emphasize the disconnect many families have from their husband or father during the season.

Say: For most coaches' families, this is a way of life; it's their “normal.” Many families have made the commitment and the necessary adjustments to make life work with the unusual perimeters that coaching puts on their family.

Ask: Based on these stories, how do these families cope with the busyness and distractions of their husband/father/coach? How do they keep from being totally disconnected as a family? Why is access to the coach rare for his family and not for his team? In what emergency-type situation would you think that the coach's family might come before the team?

Introduce today's study by reminding group members that, as believers, we have unlimited access to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Say: *Because our salvation is secured through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we can have confidence that God is never too busy, never distracted with other obligations, and never disconnected from what is happening in our lives.*

Challenge

Refer again to the families mentioned in the news article(s) and how they've made adjustments to live with a busy coach.

Remind group members that, as believers, we can approach God with confidence because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Challenge them to always rely on God for guidance and not to be deceived into thinking He is too busy or is unconcerned about their needs.

Say: *We can trust God to supply what we need, whenever we need it. He is always an available, approachable God.*

Close with a time of silent prayer.