

News Story Summary

On October 19, 2014, in a game against the San Francisco 49ers, Denver Broncos' quarterback Peyton Manning threw four touchdown passes (in only three quarters of the game) to become the all-time NFL leader in touchdown passes. His record stands at 510 (as of the Oct. 19th game) with half a season still to play.

The 38-year-old Manning tops the list of some great quarterbacks: Brett Favre (508); Dan Marino (420); Drew Brees (374); Tom Brady (372); Fran Tarkenton (342); and John Elway (300).

This record is viewed as even more remarkable since Manning has had four surgeries on his neck including a spinal fusion surgery that forced him to miss an entire NFL season. He broke the passing record in his 246th regular-season start.

After the game, Manning was quick to acknowledge that he did not do this alone. He praised his coaches and teammates at Indianapolis and Denver, saying he was both humbled and honored by all those who had helped him along the way.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term "Peyton Manning breaks touchdown passing record.")

Focus Attention

Greet group members as they arrive. Casually discuss the current professional football season and comment on the surprise teams and the disappointing teams.

Give a brief synopsis of Peyton Manning's record-breaking performance on Sunday night, October 19.

Ask: Why is this record a remarkable feat for any quarterback? What factors likely contributed to Manning's ability to top Bret Favre on this list of great passing quarterbacks? What's the likelihood that Manning's record will be broken in the near future?

Comment: Some people will argue that Peyton Manning is the greatest quarterback in the history of the game. Manning himself knows that a large part of his success is dependent on the players and coaches around him. And while he is undeniably good, he is not perfect. After the game played on October 19, Manning has also thrown 222 interceptions!

Call attention to the title of today's study: *A Perfect Offering*. Say: *Hebrews 9:11-15 will confirm for us that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, surpasses all through His atoning sacrifice. He is perfect—and only He can claim that.*

Lead in prayer for the study.

Challenge

Refer back to the discussion of Peyton Manning.

Ask: *What rituals or practices do you think a quarterback like Peyton Manning goes through in preparation for a football game? (reviewing films, rigid workout routine, proper rest, and so forth) Are these rituals or practices important? Why or why not?*

Challenge group members to silently consider their responses to these questions:

- *What rituals do you depend on in your spiritual life?*
- *How does knowing Christ has paid for our sins take the pressure off spiritually?*
- *What prevents you from fully trusting in the sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ?*

Remind the group that when we confess our sins and trust in the perfect offering of Jesus through the cross, we receive forgiveness and grace.

Lead in prayer for those who have yet to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord and for those who may struggle with relying completely on Him.