

News Story Summary

The Seattle Seahawks won a game stunning NFC championship against the Green Bay Packers on January 18. They will defend their title as Super Bowl champs today in a matchup against the New England Patriots.

The game against the Packers did not begin well for the Seahawks who were initially plagued by turnovers and mistakes. It seemed a sure victory for the Packers who led 16-0 until place holder Jon Ryan and Garry Gilliam put the Seahawks on the scoreboard. Quarterback Russell Wilson then led the team to within five points of the Packers' lead (19-14). The Seahawks' scoring surge continued as Chris Matthews capitalized on a Packers' mistake, Marshawn Lynch ran for a touchdown, and Wilson threw a two-point conversion pass to Luke Willson, making the score 22-19 and giving the Seahawks their first lead of the game.

After the Packers tied the score at 22-22, the Seahawks went 87 yards in six plays, winning the game 28-22. Coach Pete Carroll said of his winning team, it took everybody contributing to get the job done.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrases "NFC championship game 2015," and "Seattle Seahawks.")

Focus Attention

Prior to the study, search the Internet for a photo of a broken chair. Place the photo on the board along with the sentence, *Do your part*.

As group members arrive, call attention to the photo and the sentence. Identify the different parts of a chair (back, seat, legs) and point out the broken part of the chair in the photo. Ask: *What would happen to a person who tried to sit in this chair? What would it take to repair the chair?*

Share the story about the NFC championship game. Lead a discussion about the responsibilities of players on a football team or any sports team. (If necessary, research this information on the Internet prior to group time.) Ask: *In what ways can one person weaken a team? What are the characteristics of a strong team?*

Say: *After the wall around Jerusalem had been rebuilt, Nehemiah led in the assembly of individuals to protect the city. He organized people to watch the gates and appointed singers and Levites to serve in different places. Nehemiah also chose trusted individuals who were faithful to God to lead the city.*

Comment: *Nehemiah selected individuals and gave them responsibilities. They could have elected not to follow Nehemiah's direction, but they did their parts. Challenge the group to consider the importance of everyone doing their part and how that relates to them today.*

Challenge

Say: Members of the Seattle Seahawks football team did not give up but did their part to get the job of winning the championship done. Ask: *In what ways have Christians successfully done their part in impacting the kingdom of God? What difference does it make when we don't do our part?*

Challenge group members to consider whether they are doing their part as a member of the church. Share that their part can include anything from working in church ministries to practicing spiritual disciplines such as praying, sharing their faith, or studying the Bible. Encourage them to take steps to obey God in whatever He has asked each of them to do.

Lead in prayer, asking God to strengthen the resolve of group members to do their part in building His kingdom.