

News Story Summary

The National Football League's 2015 draft is now in the books and the contract negotiations are in full season. It is common for there to be rookie hold outs during contract negotiations. Many times players wait for other draftees to create a starting point for negotiation. Leadership with the Minnesota Vikings have taken the contract process serious this year by making a commitment to have all contracts negotiated and signed by the time rookie mini-camps began. They were successful and now all NFL rookies wearing Vikings jerseys this year have a signed contract before they ever start training.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the sentence "Minnesota Vikings no rookie hold out.")

Focus Attention

As group members begin to arrive draw attention to recent news surrounding the NFL draft. Introduce discussion about contract negotiation for drafted players. Once most of the group has arrived, mention that this year the Minnesota Vikings made a commitment to sign all their draftees before any participated in any training and all have signed a contract. Emphasize the importance of keeping commitments. Lead the group to identify other commitments that require diligence to be kept.

Transition: In our culture we make all kinds of agreements, but no agreement should ever supersede the one we have made to make Jesus the Lord of our life. In this week's study Malachi looks at the marriage covenant that should have been very important for the Israelites to remember and respect however many men were abandoning their God witnessed marriages for pagan wives.

Challenge

As you close out this week's study, mention the story about how the Minnesota Vikings making their contract agreements with new players a priority by acting on them immediately and diligently. Ask: How can we act immediately and diligently in our marriage commitments?

Challenge: Challenge the group to be purposeful about setting their marriage as a priority this week. Help remind them that how we respect our commitment to our spouse is a reflection of how we respect our covenant with our spouse.

Pray: Close in prayer lifting up those who have been through divorce and asking God to revive our hearts to the importance of honoring and celebrating marriage covenants.