

News Story Summary

The week before the 2016 Super Bowl game, legendary gate-crasher, Dion Rich, granted an interview about sneaking into the game. Rich, now 86-years-old, says he slipped into more than 30 Super Bowls, and has made his way onto the field many times.

He knew some of the players on the Kansas City Chiefs who played in the first Super Bowl so he simply met the team buses and walking into the locker rooms with the team. After a few years, officials began to specifically watch for him, so he began wearing disguises. Eventually, Rich was caught and began working with security people to help them understand how to better do their job at big events. Rich now says he has gone legit. This year he purchased a legitimate ticket to attend the game.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “Legendary gate-crasher gives tips for sneaking into Super Bowl.”)

Focus Attention

Share the news story with the group.. Ask: *Why do you think he preferred these methods rather than just buying a ticket each time?* Point out that today’s lesson, entitled “Access Granted,” is about Jesus revealing how we can gain access to the Kingdom of God. Ask: *What are some ways that people try to gain access to His kingdom illegitimately?* Challenge the group to look for what Jesus taught about gaining access to His kingdom.

Challenge

Remind the group of the Dion Rich story. Explain that there will be no gate crashers of God’s Kingdom. Challenge them to consider ways they can help others understand that one can enter heaven only through faith in Jesus.