

STICK TO THE GAME PLAN



Main Point

Jesus is the game plan, stick to the plan, stick to Jesus



Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

John 14: 5-7 NIV



Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

John 14: 8-9 NIV



Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

John 14: 10-11 NIV



The Game Plan

- Jesus is the way
- Jesus is the truth
- Jesus is the life
- Follow Jesus





**"THE MEASURE OF WHO
WE ARE IS WHAT WE DO
WITH WHAT WE HAVE"**

Vince Lombardi



Distractions

- We're told we need a lot of things
- Most are not inherently bad
- Trick is to stay focused on the game plan



So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Galatians 5: 16-17 NIV



Block the Distractions

- Walk by the Spirit not our desires
- All of the best “stuff” doesn’t get us closer to God
- Follow Jesus before your desires





Big Moments

- Come in different forms
- Something that is a huge deal to you
- Make sure God is part of those



You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Psalm 139: 1-3 NIV



Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Psalm 139: 4-6 NIV



Catch the Big Moments

- God knows you through the big and small moments
- He is there before and after
- Catch the moments but make God part of them



Criticism

- Criticism will come
- Can be helpful, hard, or hurtful
- What do you usually do with criticism?



Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding. Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 15: 31-32 NIV



Absorb Criticism

- Constructive criticism can be helpful
- Correction leads to understanding
- Let God help you process criticism




Tough Times

- Tough times will come
- What do you do?
 - Fix it yourself, give up, trust God?



Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

Matthew 14: 25-26 NIV



But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Matthew 14: 27-29 NIV



But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14: 30-33 NIV



Trust God in Tough Times

- Keep your eyes on Jesus
- Trust in Him is never misguided
- God sees things we don't



Closing

- Having a game plan is a great thing
- Ours is Jesus
 - His life, His teaching, His love
- Stick to the game plan and stick to Jesus



Audio file

[Stick to the Game Plan Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

But whether you love the Super Bowl or not, is a big deal, right? This thing becomes a spectacle in our country, there are parties and ads, and we're obviously throwing a tailgate today. This kind of dominates what's going on, but it all really centers around the game, right? We don't have the Super Bowl without the two teams that get there. Again, Eagles and Chiefs tonight, they work all season long. Work hard play. And prepare for this game. It's all about the game and the win, and to go about that their coaches come up with game plans, right? They have to prepare. Decide how are we going to attack the other defense? How are we going to combat what they're going to do? So there is a game plan that goes with the Super Bowl with any sporting event. So we're going to look at it kind of from that perspective. Today, for our lives as Christians, what is our game plan? How do we say that now we have a game plan from God, but there's a lot of other things that go on around us in our lives that can kind of throw us off the game plan, things we don't see coming, things maybe we see coming and we pay too much attention. All right, so we want to look at all of that. So how we're going to see this today is this Jesus is our game plan. We want to stick to the plan and stick to Jesus, alright, so we're going to see Jesus, his life, who he is as our game plan following that. And we want to stick to that and stick to Him. So we're going to read through a few different passages, they're going to be right up here on the screen. Or about that they'll be up there and kind of talk about this. The first one is going to be John, 14, five through 11. This is going to give us our actual game plan, so here we go, John, 14 five through 11 says this. Thomas said to him, him being Jesus Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way? Jesus answered I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me. If you really know me, you will know. My father is well. From now on, you do know him. And have seen him. Philip said Lord, show us the father and that will be enough for us. Jesus answered. Don't you know me, Philip? Even after I have been among you. Such a long time, anyone who has seen me has seen the father. How can you say, show us the father? Don't you believe that I'm in the father and the father is in me? Me the words I say to you. I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the father living in me who is doing his work. Believe me when I say I'm in the father and the father is in me, or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Alright, we're going to stop there. Simply put, we're going to break down our game plan is just to follow Jesus, we're going to whiteboard it, because what would be a game plan if we are not in the locker room? So the game plan here, we're going to follow Jesus, right? If you can't read this, that's OK because my handwriting isn't great. All right, John, 14 five through 11. All right, so that's our game plan. What does this mean? The disciples are saying to Jesus here. We want to follow you. We want to get to the father, we want to go to heaven, but we don't know the way and Jesus kind of breaks it down very simply, he says. I am the way meaning. His death gives us access to the father, gives us access to heaven. He broke down a barrier by sacrificing his life for us. He made heaven and eternity possible. Then he says I'm the truth. He brought truth into the world. To live by? What is honest? What is real? Then he says I'm the life, meaning I'm the actual life blood of God. Jesus comes to Earth as fully man, but fully God, God comes and is alive and he's like guys. There is no way. To the father, to heaven without me. I am that way. There is no other game plan that

we could draw up here that would get us there. As the disciples believed in Jesus as a team. You know, he was great as Lord, but they they just weren't getting this connection to Jesus as the father. They weren't totally getting that. That's how this worked. And he's like. Guys living in me, he's like what I say. These are the words of God, the miracles being the evidence, right, the things he did. Evidence that the father sent him so following Jesus is the game plan. It's laid out by him, and if we think of him almost as our coach, he is the best. Which ever right we have a quote up here, we'll go to the next slide here. We go Vincent. Bardy, one of the most famous football coaches, US Packer fans know him well, led the Packers to those first couple Super Bowls. Ton of quotes, one of them being this the measure of who we are is what we do with what we have. So if we try to take that for us. What do we have? We have Jesus, we have his game. Man, how we follow that is what matters to him. Nothing else. Nothing else matters to Jesus. He wants us to just follow him and to obey him, to listen to him. That's how we're measured. That's what we have and that's how we're measured. So we have the coach, we have this game plan, this great formula. But there's always going to be stuff that comes up against us. We're going to refer to them today as opponents, even though not all of them are necessarily bad things. But there are different things that can take us off our game plan. The first one, distractions, things can distract us. This is like our commercials. Kyle, you can go to that slide. All right. We have our commercials, right? So these are some of the favorites I've had, we get the. E*Trade baby from years ago. Betty White did a Snickers commercial. I love Betty White. So she did that one. This is the guys from Breaking Bad. Apparently that one is debuting tonight for Popcorners, but. Commercials, right. These are huge part of the game. Some of you said this is what you look forward to the most. Some of them are funny, some are meaningful, some are catchy. All right. They're also crazy expensive. A 30 second ad tonight runs roughly 6 to \$7 million just to run a 30 second ad tonight, right? Because so many people watch. And these companies want all of this audience. To see their product, to buy it, to go with that. So distractions are part of what can throw us off. So we got distractions up here. All right, so distractions. We're told we need things. That's what these commercials tell us. A lot of them are financial stuff, right? Financial planning investing, security invests here. Refinance your loan with us. Get your insurance here. Donate to this. All this kind of things with with just with our money. Right. So they try to get us. To do that, then, there's stuff. Commercials are about stuff. Cars, electronics, clothes. Right, all of these things that these companies want you to buy and they try to grab your attention with even things just to try to help you as they would say be a better you or self-care gym memberships, workout routines, health plans, books, trainers, all of this stuff just to help you make this big change in your life. All of these things. They're trying to grab you with and they're not inherently bad things. There's nothing wrong with making good financial decisions or having things or taking care of yourself. But how do we still stay focused on this plan throughout all of these days? Actions we're going to look at Galatians 5:16 through 17 to see what the Bible says about that. It says adulations 5:16. So I say walk by the spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh, for the flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit and the spirit. What is contrary to the flesh, they are in conflict with each other. So you are not to do whatever you want. How we're going to see this is this. We want to block our distractions that we're going to. Block them here. Put that in green, right. So we're going to block out our distractions. So Jesus was going to leave Earth. He he promised to leave us the Holy Spirit to guide us, to give us, we say, discernment. It's to help nudge us to help us figure out, hey, what are we supposed to do? That voice inside of you? How are we supposed? To stay on. Track now the earthly and personal desires can lead. Us off that. Track right. They can take us away. That's why those earthly desires can be a little bit scary. They won't get us across if we would say the goal line, they won't get us to God, they're great, and some of them aren't even a

problem. But they can cause our focus to leave here the best car, a huge 401K. Designer hoodies. All this kind of stuff, the most impressive body transformation is awesome and you might look great, but without Jesus, we don't yet to heaven, we don't get to the father, and again, they're all great on their own. But they don't get us closer to God. So what this verse says is be led by the Holy Spirit. First, he keeps us on track. Make that 401K investment and investment in God's grace and love and kindness. We talked about that last week. If you were here. With us make that huge transformation, one inside one transformation of your heart and giving it to Jesus and following Jesus now doesn't mean as you're watching these commercials tonight that you can't have anything from the commercials. I switched dishwasher detergent based on a commercial six months ago. All right, and it's great. Doesn't mean we can't do it, but focus on who is leading you. Are you following Jesus's game plan or is something knocking you off the path, right? So distractions is the the first opponent. 2nd opponent big moments. This is like our halftime show. All right, so we have some pictures of a halftime show here. Kai can throw up. These are some from the past. We got Bruno Mars from years ago. He was good, doctor, Dre and Snoop. That was one I loved that one last year. Honestly, the the kind of West Coast hip hop that was my era that I listened to. Prince, always great and Katy Perry with the sharks. I still don't understand that one, but they keep talking about it. But the halftime show huge things tonight, Rihanna, nobody knows what she's going to do. But there is massive moments for these performers. A ton of eyes around them. People watch and gather and get super excited. It is a big, big moment, so that's going to be our second opponent is a big. Big moments. All right, so these can come in many different ways for us in our lives. It could be weddings. It could be the birth of kids, graduations, buying your first car, big trip. You planned a new job or promotion, but it's something that you feel like is a really big deal, something that you're excited about. You're proud of maybe it required a lot of work, but it's really big to you. And I'm not saying not to enjoy them. We should. We have these moments. We should take them in, enjoy them, have great moments in your life, but have God be a part of them. I think sometimes the tendency is to only focus on that and separate from God, but he wants to be part of those. So it's all 139. One through 6 says this. You've searched me, Lord, and know me. You know, when I sit, when I rise, you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down. You're familiar with all my ways before a word is on my toe. Young you Lord, know it completely. You hem me in and behind you hem me in behind him before and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. We're going to say this. We're going to actually catch. These big moments want us to catch them, and we can use these verses from the Psalm to show us. In this song, we hear that God is all knowing and he's ever present he's there, he knows everything, and he is everywhere. He knows you through the small and the big moments. He's not just there in the small or there in the big, he's there with all of them. He's also there before those moments and he's there after them. He knows what came before. He knows what comes next. He's got this incredible view around everything, so if it's a wedding, he's going to guide you and bless that wedding day, but then guide you and bless the marriage that comes after that. A vacation he might give you the rest and recovery you need on that vacation or a new perspective on something. Forming a new relationship, you'll discover a new passion if you do something on vacation, and then he's going to be there with you after that vacation to walk with you through the rest of it. Same thing with a move or a promotion guiding you through all of that. So keep him apart of that. We want to catch these moments and embrace him, right. Catch him and hold on to him. But all as a part of God's plan, because he's the one that was there before and is going to be there. After that, if you think about like halftime, those of you that have played sports at halftime, coaches get in there and give their halftime speech to their players and a lot of times there is adjustments to a game

plan, right? Here's what worked. Here's what didn't work. We got to change this in the second-half. God knows what's coming so he can help us walk through what comes after that big moment. Kind of the same thing. He's involved, keep him involved and catch. Speaking of halftime, one of the best things while being a kid when you played sports was like the halftime and after game snack. So on your tables there are juice boxes and orange slices. You can now help yourselves to those. That is the half times I coach an 8 year old soccer team. So my sons, Kyle helps me. It's a it's an experience with those kids. Juice boxes and orange slices help yourself. Who doesn't love those when it comes to kids sports, we'll keep going. It's also about halfway through our opponents. I was two if two more to go. If you're starting to smell the. Chili, don't worry, it's coming. Opponent 3. Criticism in life this is like our commentators. All right, our commentators, all sporting events, have commentators, people that walk you through what's going on in the game. Usually you have like a play by play guy. That's kind of in essence narrating the game and then you'll have an analyst. A lot of these guys are former players. They kind of just say their thoughts on the game. People have a very different view on commentators. Some love them, some can't. Stand them. I'm a big fan. I'm a soccer guy. I'm wearing a soccer jersey. British soccer commentators are the best because they're brutally honest and they yell at people. It's awesome. Tonight you're going to hear from two guys named Kevin Burkhardt and Greg Olsen. Those are Fox's commentators. But what their job is is whether you like it or not, whether the players like it or not, to say what they see. To give analysis sometimes to critique it, give their thoughts on the game. So one of our opponents is indeed criticism. Alright, so criticism. I am sure all of you handle criticism super well, right? We all just take it in, we handle it. Great, right? I'm just going to talk to myself. OK, great. I guess that's not true. Criticism is hard because whether we ask for criticism or analysis on our lives or whatever, it's going to come. You might have bosses or supervisors. For work that have to give you criticism or feedback, how are? Doing, you might ask for it from different leaders to say, hey, give me some feedback on this or give me some thoughts. Give me a. Then you might just have friends or family that's going to give you criticism whether you want it or not. Alright, this also happens. It's a part of. Life no criticism can be super helpful. It might point things out that we need to do better. Or things we need to change. It might also be really hard because we don't want to change. We don't want to do the work. It can also hurt. If we messed up or we let someone down and that's the criticism, or if we receive that criticism that is unwarranted. And just straight up hurtful. Because I think many of us have been there, so criticism can be really difficult. What I've discovered just through life experience, I think there are two camps we fall into when we receive criticism at camp. One, the one I fall into is to kind of just get defensive where you say, what do you know, I worked really hard at this or Kyle, if you can do better, you do it yourself. That type of thing, that's the component. The second one would be more the other end of the spectrum. Oh my gosh, they criticize me. I'm terrible at everything and let the whole world down and need to change absolutely everything about me. That's sometimes the other response you could fall in the middle, but I've seen those two happen a lot. So the question what do we do with it? What do we do with criticism? How do? We handle it. We're going to get proverbs 15 to try to help us out a little bit. Proverbs 15:1 through 33 says whoever heeds life giving correction will be at home among the wise. Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains. Understanding wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord. And humility comes before honor. I say it. Like this, we're going. To absorb the criticism, kind of take it in, we're going to absorb it. All right. How do we do this now? One thing to make sure we're pointing out is we're talking about receiving criticism, giving it out in a Christian and loving way. That could be a whole nother sermon on how to give it out. We're talking about receiving, and it's important to be able to receive this because teachability is

important. We should always want to learn. And grow our understandings and constructive criticism can be really helpful. So we have to think, OK, is this criticism, is it there to help me because it can make us wiser, help us improve. When you listen to correction as we hear about. In this proverb. Our understanding can grow. Maybe you didn't realize something you said was wrong or was offensive or was outdated or just not helpful in the situation. If we can listen to that and realize that things are constantly changing around us, we might be able to grow our understanding and that's important. So what I would say is like God help you process that criticism like God help you absorb it. Right. And he might lead you to make that change and help you make that change from that criticism. He might lead you into more conversation or relationship with the person that gave you that criticism. Maybe you're going to. Learn even more. And he might put you in a whole nother different direction and, say, absorb it, but you don't need to do. Anything with that? But if we let God be a part of it, let God, when we bring it in and absorb it, we let him help us take it in. We can handle it in the right way in a way that would follow Jesus's game plan. So we want to absorb that. Alright, last opponent. We're going to talk about tough times. All right, this is. The time when I think about when the game maybe just didn't go well. If you've played sports or played anything you know you have those games that are just. Kind of a bummer. Back in Super Bowl 37, it was the Raiders and the Buccaneers. The Raiders quarterbacks, a guy named Rich Gannon. Rich Gannon that game through five touchdown passes. Problem was three were to the other team. OK, Three will return for touchdowns the other way. He totaled out, throwing 5 interceptions at game, which is a Super Bowl record. I'm going to guess it's a record he doesn't want to hold. They lost the game. Terrible day. It's painful. It hurts. My guess is you'd like to forget that one. I don't know. But these tough games. Tough times happen in our lives, so we have these tough times. Alright, what we're going to do, we are all going to go through tough times in our lives. We're never promised. Tough things, won't happen. Hardships, difficulties, different things. So when they. Do come think about it to yourself for a minute. What is that default reaction? Do you do? Do you just trying to? Fix it yourself. Right away I got this. I can just plan it out. Going to do this to take care. Do you give? Up to ask. Screw it. I'm done. I'm out. I'm done. With this. Do you trust? Someone else, do you have friends? You look to. Where do you trust God? Now know the right answer is supposed to be God, but this is hard. It is honestly a struggle. I've battled this one. I'm gonna fix it myself. Kind of guy. I'm smart, I'm intelligent. I can handle this. I can do it. That's so hard, right? Because we should trust God's good news is the disciples. Jesus disciples struggled with this too. We're going to look at their story about this to kind of help us get going. Matthew 14:25 through 33 said. This shortly before Dawn, Jesus went out to them. The disciples walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. It's a ghost, they said, and cried out in fear. Jesus immediately said to them take courage. It is. I don't be afraid, Lord, if it's you, Peter replied. Tell me to come to you on the water. Come, he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked down the water and came. Towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, beginning to sing cried out. Lord save me. Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. You have little faith, he said. Why did you doubt? And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Than those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying truly you are the son of God. We're going to trust in those tough times. We're going. All right. The disciples were scared, so they first see Jesus coming, and they think he's a ghost. So Peter says if it's you, Jesus, call me. I'll come walking out to you. Kind of a familiar story, Peter. Walking on the water, he says. Come on. Come on out and. Peter starts to go out and at first he's focused on Jesus. He's straight up on Jesus, he's fine, but he starts looking around and everything and he's scared. It's windy. The waves are chopping. It's a storm and he loses sight of Jesus. He loses his trust there and he starts to sink and Jesus has to save him. And

Jesus, when they get back, says why? Why did you doubt it's if he's saying, why didn't you just trust me? Just have your trust in that tough time. I can't tell what God would do in any of our tough times. I wish I could. I wish I knew during all the tough moments in my life. What was going? To happen, I wish that you would all know that for yourselves, but it's not the way it works. But I do know this. We want to stay focused on God because I know that God won't leave us during those tough times. I'm always going to do, but he's going to be there. Excuse me. He might just. Fix whatever the problem is. He might heal whatever the issue. Is he might. He might not. He might just be with you and be peace and comfort in the midst of the chaos and the craziness. He might put someone else in your life. To help you through it, I don't know what he's gonna do, but I. Do know he wants to be near us during those times and he will and he wants us to trust him and that trust in God in those tough moments is never misguided. Players on a team, the players playing tonight need to trust their coaches. They have to trust their coaches because the coaches see things the players don't. Just like God sees things that we don't. So when we trust God, it's a big part of his game playing, cause he will see everything around us and he will guide us through those tough moments. So having a game plan is a great thing, right? The teams tonight have game plans. We have this game plan for our life. We have a plan and we have to be willing to just see it and follow it. It's Jesus. It's his life, his teaching and his love. And when we stay focused on his plan, we can get through all the opponents that come and try to knock us off. In whatever way they do so, we stay focused and we stay tight on. Jesus's plan. We stick to that game plan and we stick to Jesus. Let's pray. Got to thank you for today. God, you brought all of us here together that we could just. Dive into your word and hear from you. Gotta thank you that we have a plan. Got the the Jesus came and shows us the way that he's the way truth in life. God that we can follow him through any of the opponents that life will throw at us. So that I pray that. We would just stay connected to you. We would live. To you, first, we wouldn't be distracted. I'm glad that we would capture the big moments, but have you be a part of them and that, God, we're criticized, we would take it in and let you help us process through it. And God, during those tough times that we would just. Trust you, we. Wouldn't lose trust or faith, but that we would just grab onto you even tighter. So got to thank you again for today for all of us here. Your name. Amen.