

GOD: THE ULTIMATE PLAY CALLER



Punchline

God calls the player and the plays



As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

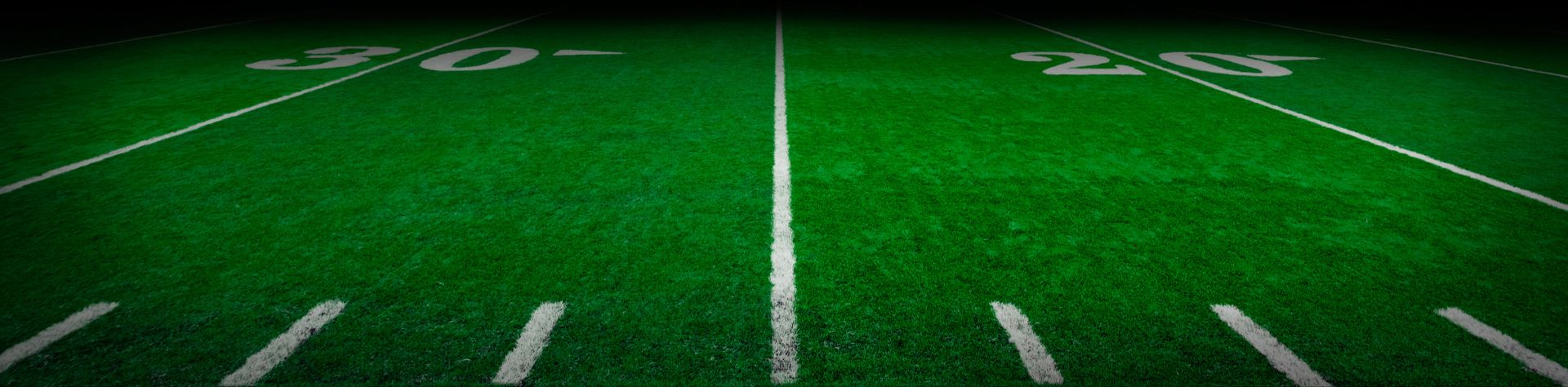
Mark 1: 16-18 NIV

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Mark 1: 19-20 NIV

Follow Me

- ★ **Jesus chose the disciples**
- ★ **They weren't elite or super special in their society**
- ★ **Following Him meant giving something up**

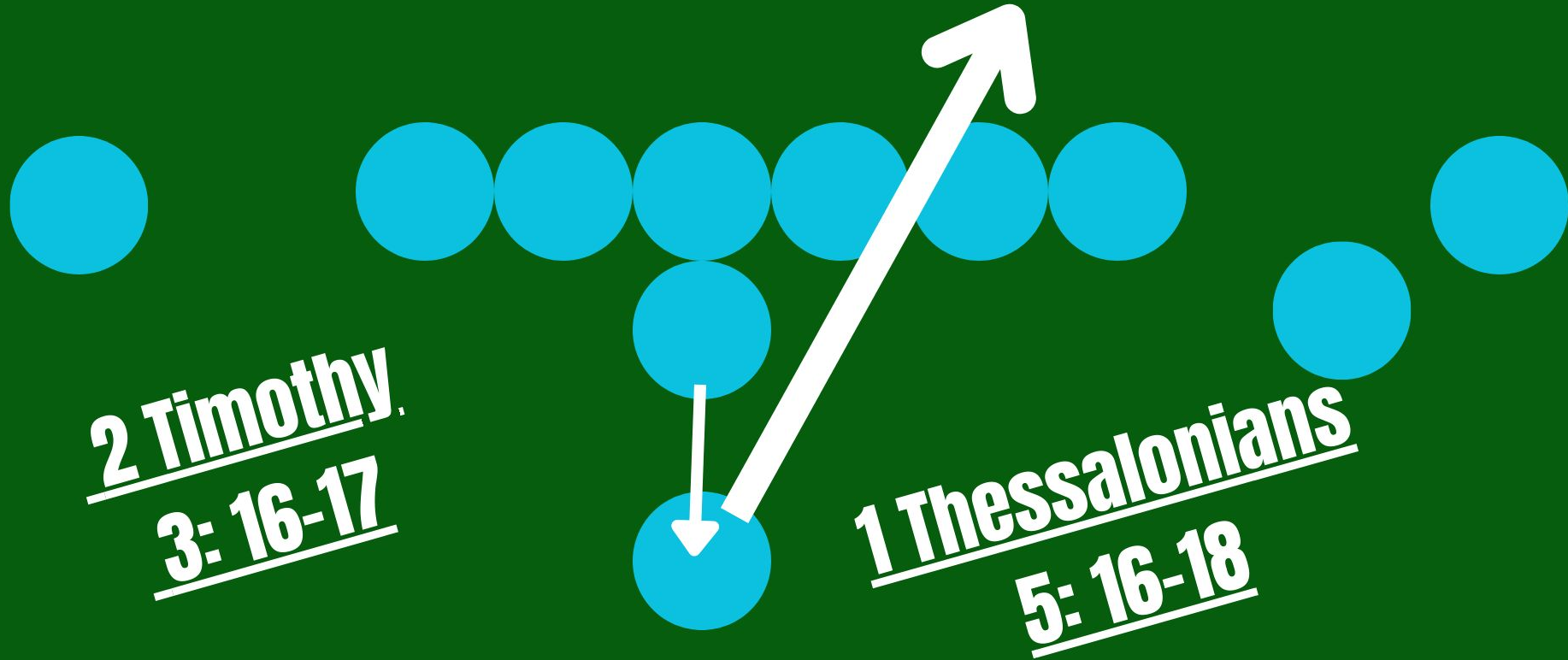


Jesus Chose You

- ★ No matter who you are or what you've done
- ★ "What do I get?"
 - Love, forgiveness, grace, eternal life
- ★ If you've never said yes to following Jesus you can do that today



Run Play - The Basics



2 Timothy
3: 16-17

1 Thessalonians
5: 16-18

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3: 16-17 NIV

The Bible

- ★ The words in the Bible come from God and the words are useful
- ★ To follow God we need to know what He has said and who He is
- ★ It helps us become faithful and good servants of God

Prayer

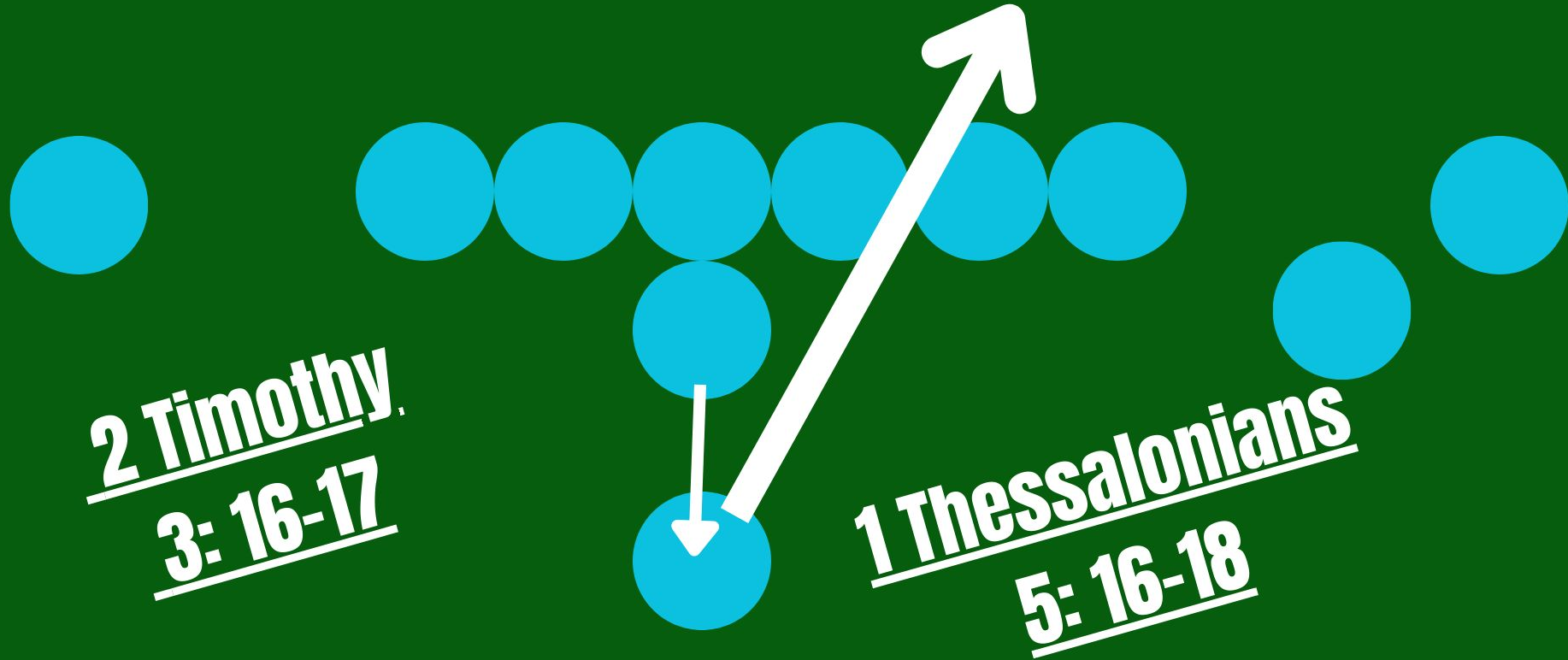
- ★ **Pray continually**
 - **Talk to God, ask questions, be thankful, be confused etc...**
- ★ **This is what grows our relationship with God**



Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 NIV

Run Play - The Basics



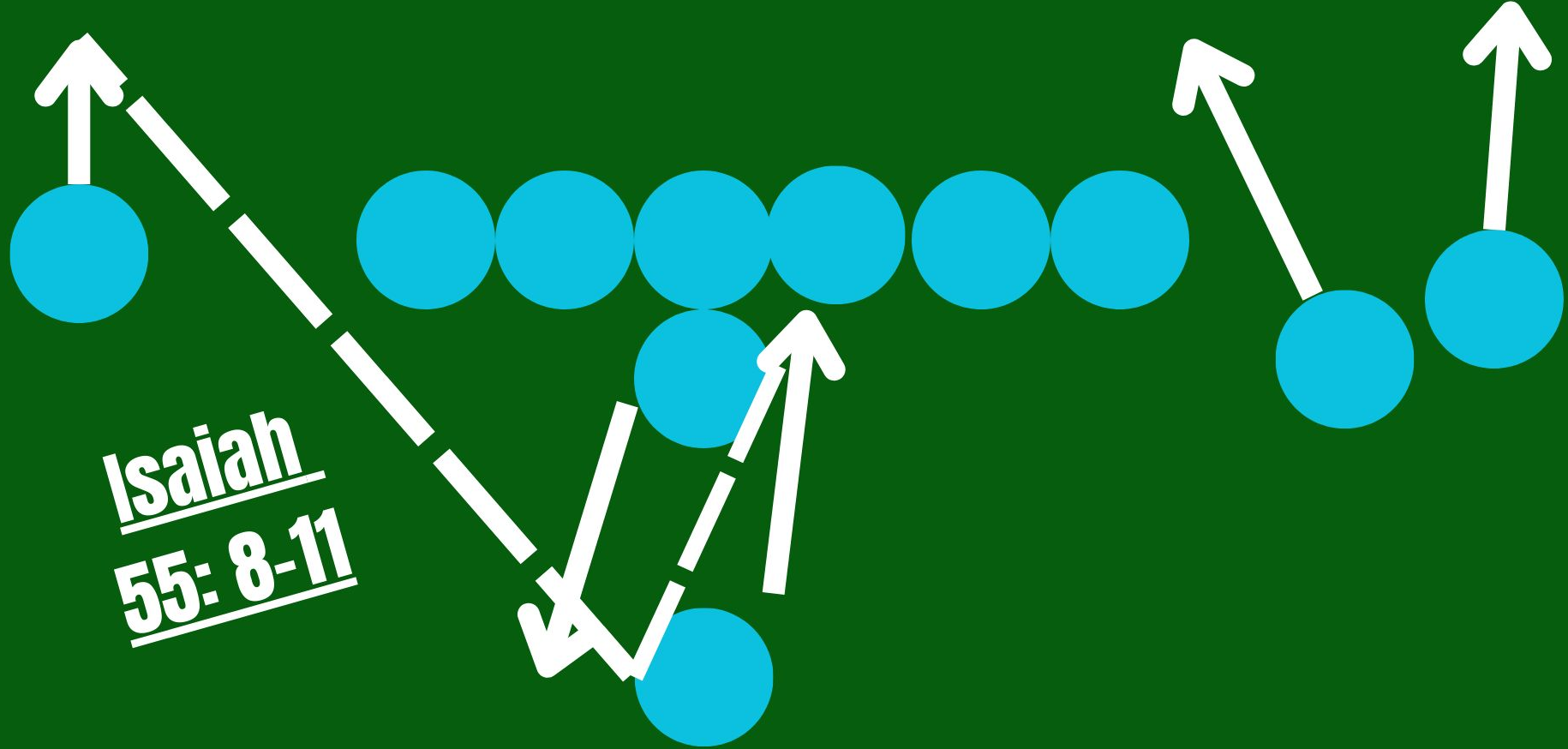
2 Timothy
3: 16-17

1 Thessalonians
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Do The Basics

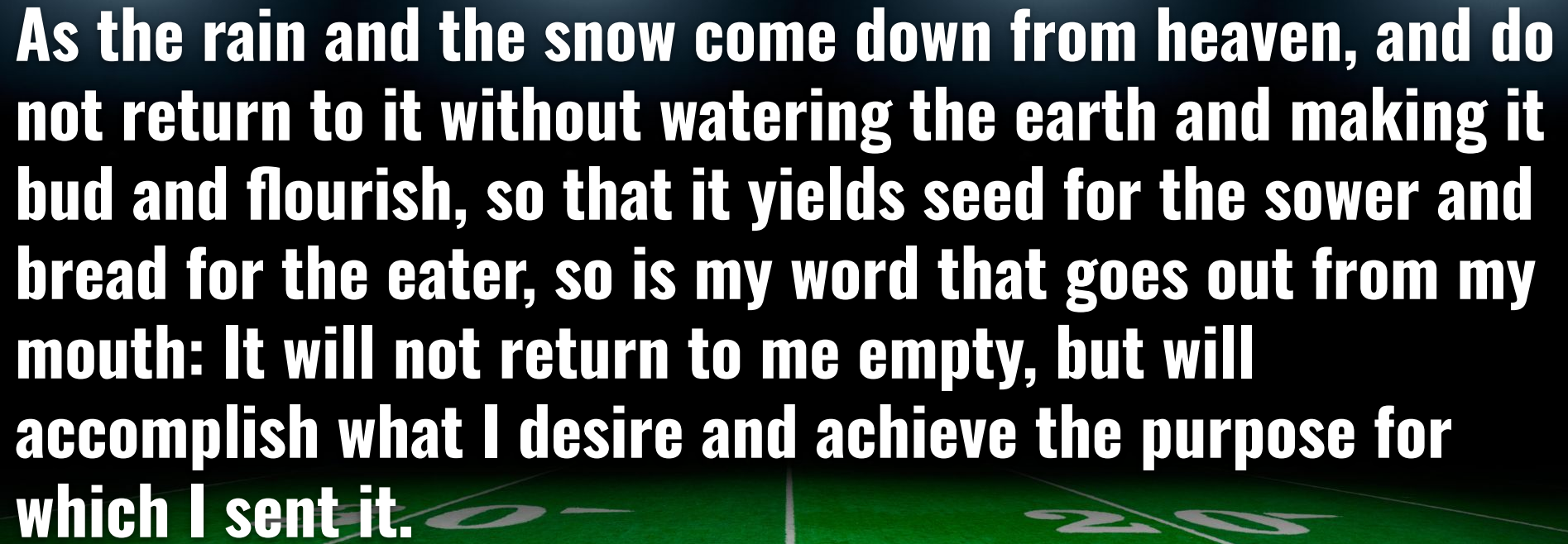
- ★ **God wants us to do the basics over and over because they build our foundation**
 - **Read the Bible - we'll help you start**
 - **Pray everyday about anything**
 - **You won't do it wrong and it will always be good enough**
- ★ **It's not always fun or fancy, but it's important**

Flea Flicker - Something Unexpected



“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55: 8-9 NIV



As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

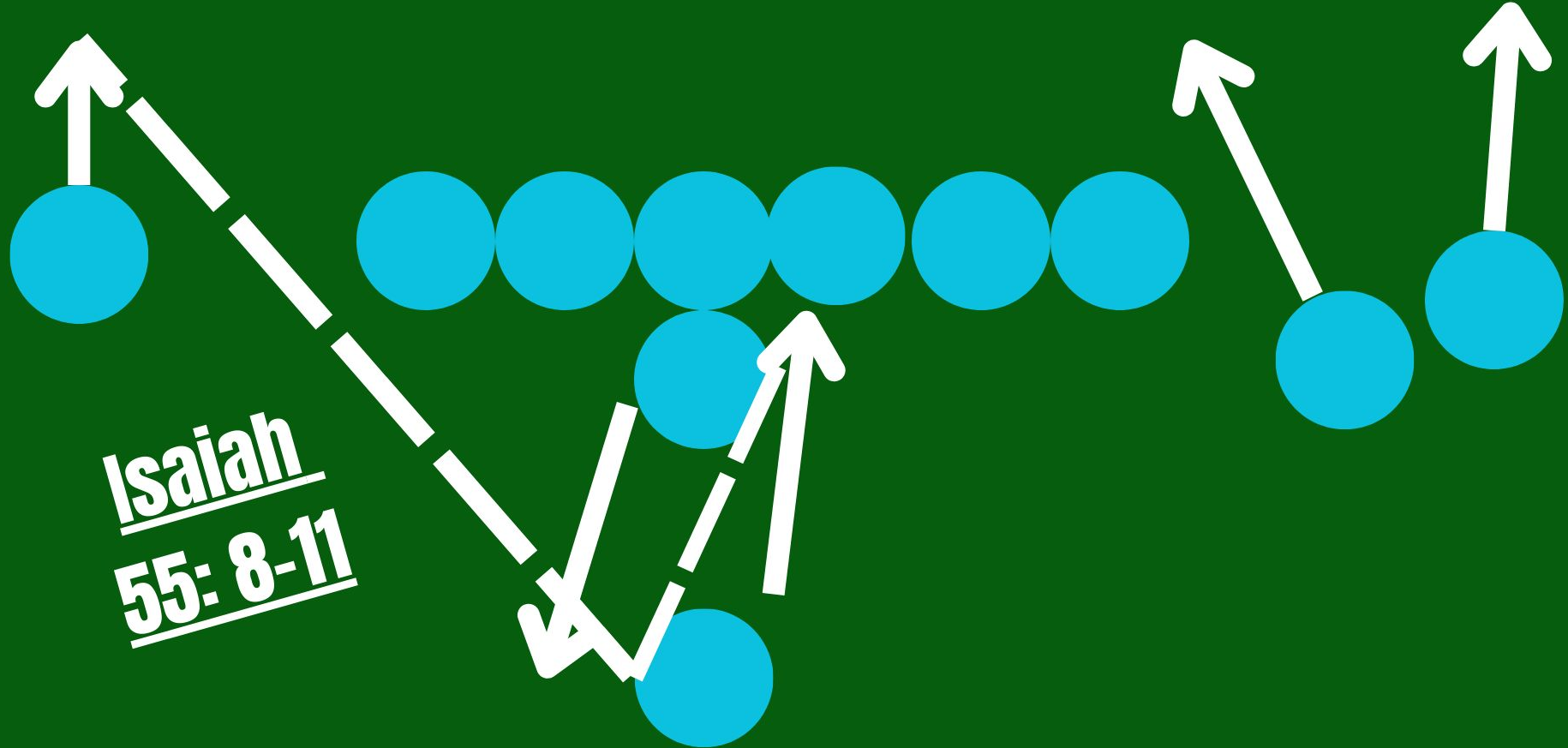
Isaiah 55: 10-11 NIV

The Unexpected

- ★ God thinks in different ways and acts in different ways than we do
- ★ His plan is on a whole different level
- ★ Even the unexpected will work



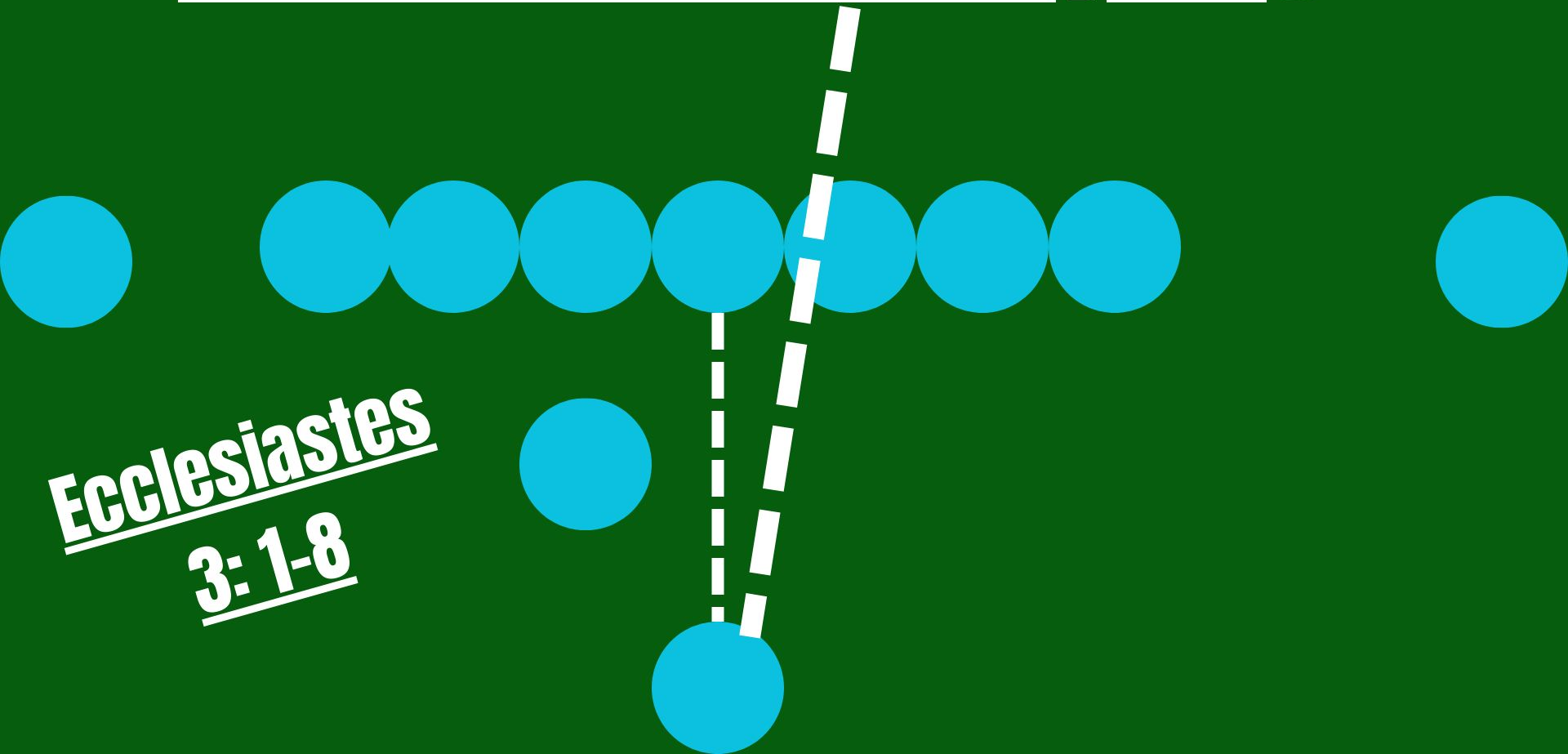
Flea Flicker - Something Unexpected



The Unexpected

- ★ It's ok to be nervous if God calls you to the unexpected
- ★ Be more focused on running the play than the outcome of the play
- ★ If we think it didn't work then the goal wasn't for us to catch the pass or the play isn't over

Punt - A Time For Everything



Ecclesiastes

3: 1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

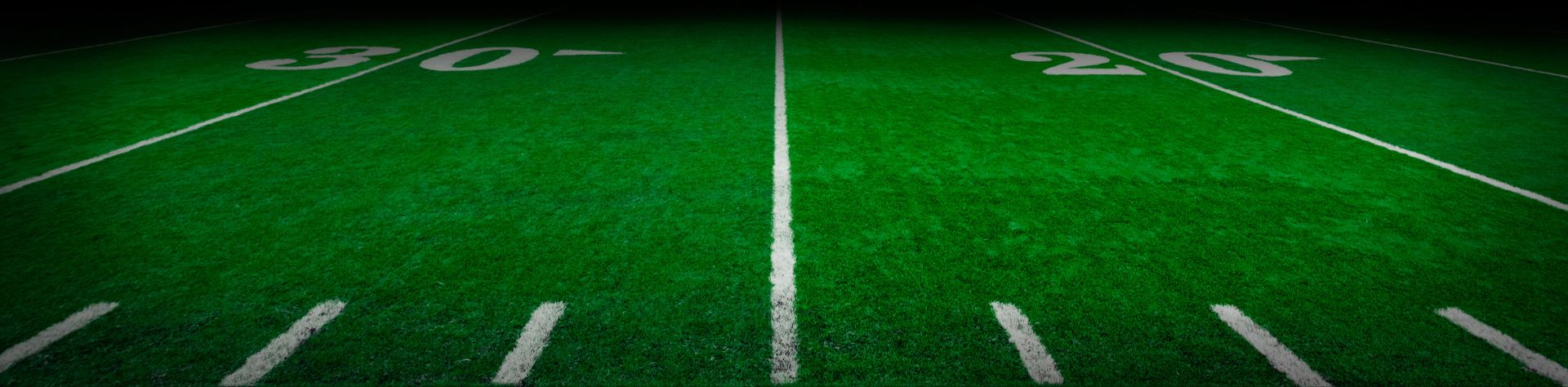
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4 NIV

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

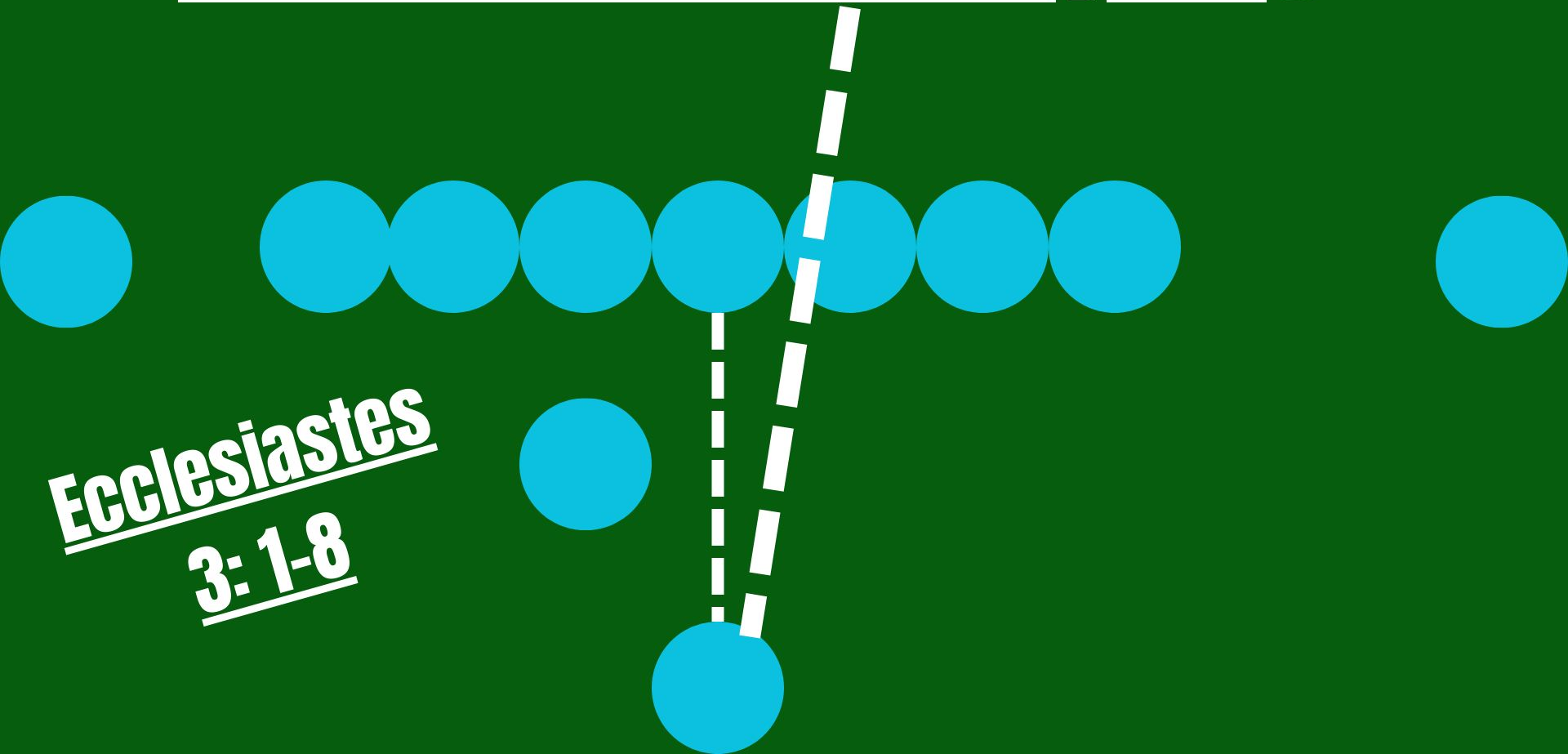
Ecclesiastes 3: 5-8 NIV

A Time For Everything

- ★ A time for every aspect of life
- ★ God is in control of all of it
- ★ One thing starts, then ends, then another starts



Punt - A Time For Everything



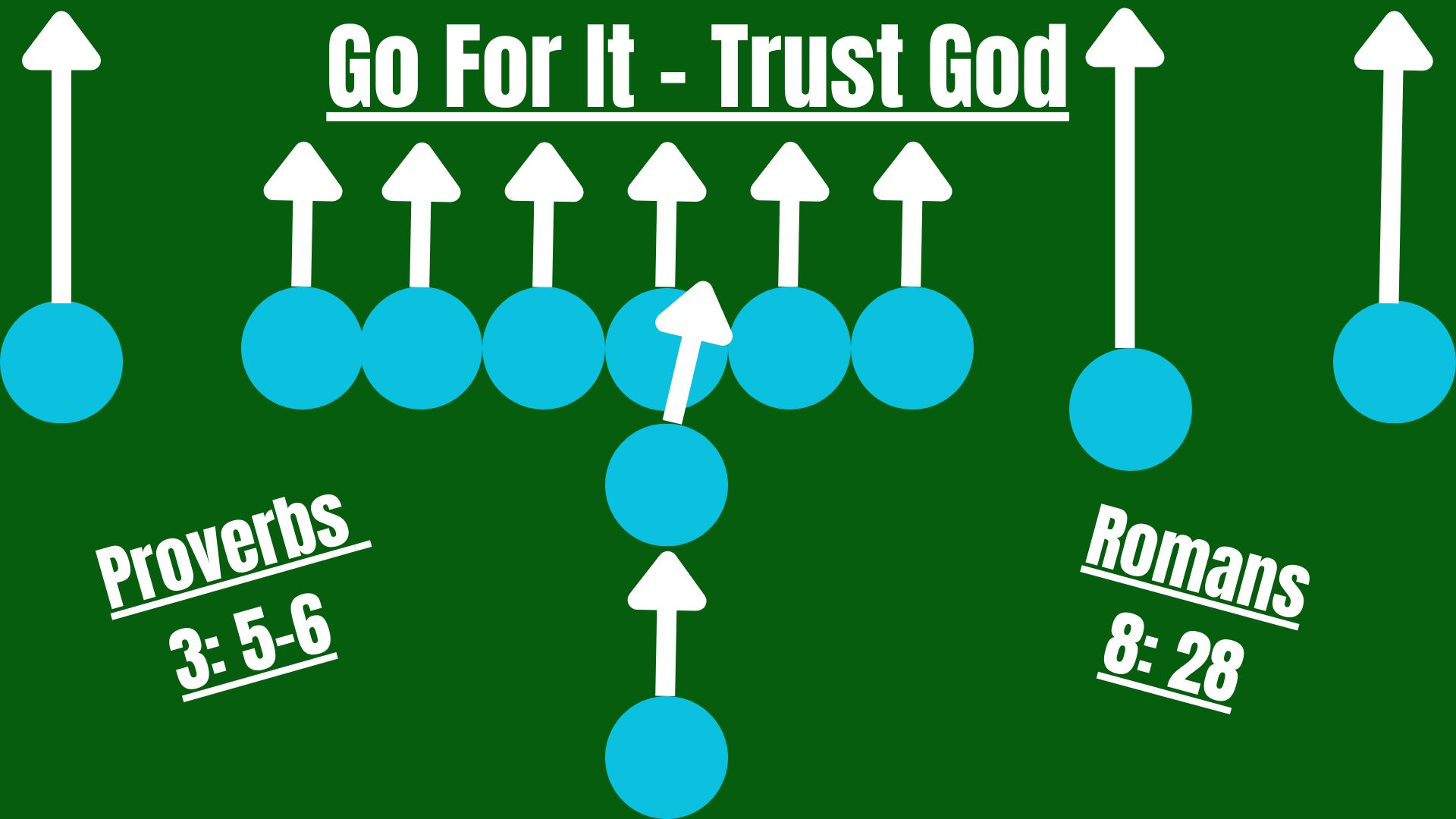
Ecclesiastes

3: 1-8

Time To Punt

- ★ God may call you to move on from something
- ★ If God is calling you to do this, it is not quitting or giving up
- ★ It takes discernment and listening to know if God is calling us to move on
- ★ Sometimes moving on is harder than pushing through

Go For It - Trust God



Proverbs
3: 5-6

Romans
8: 28

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3: 5-6 NIV

Trusting God

- ★ Trust God and He will make your path straight
- ★ Completely resigned to letting God take you where you need to go



And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who [i] have been called according to his purpose.

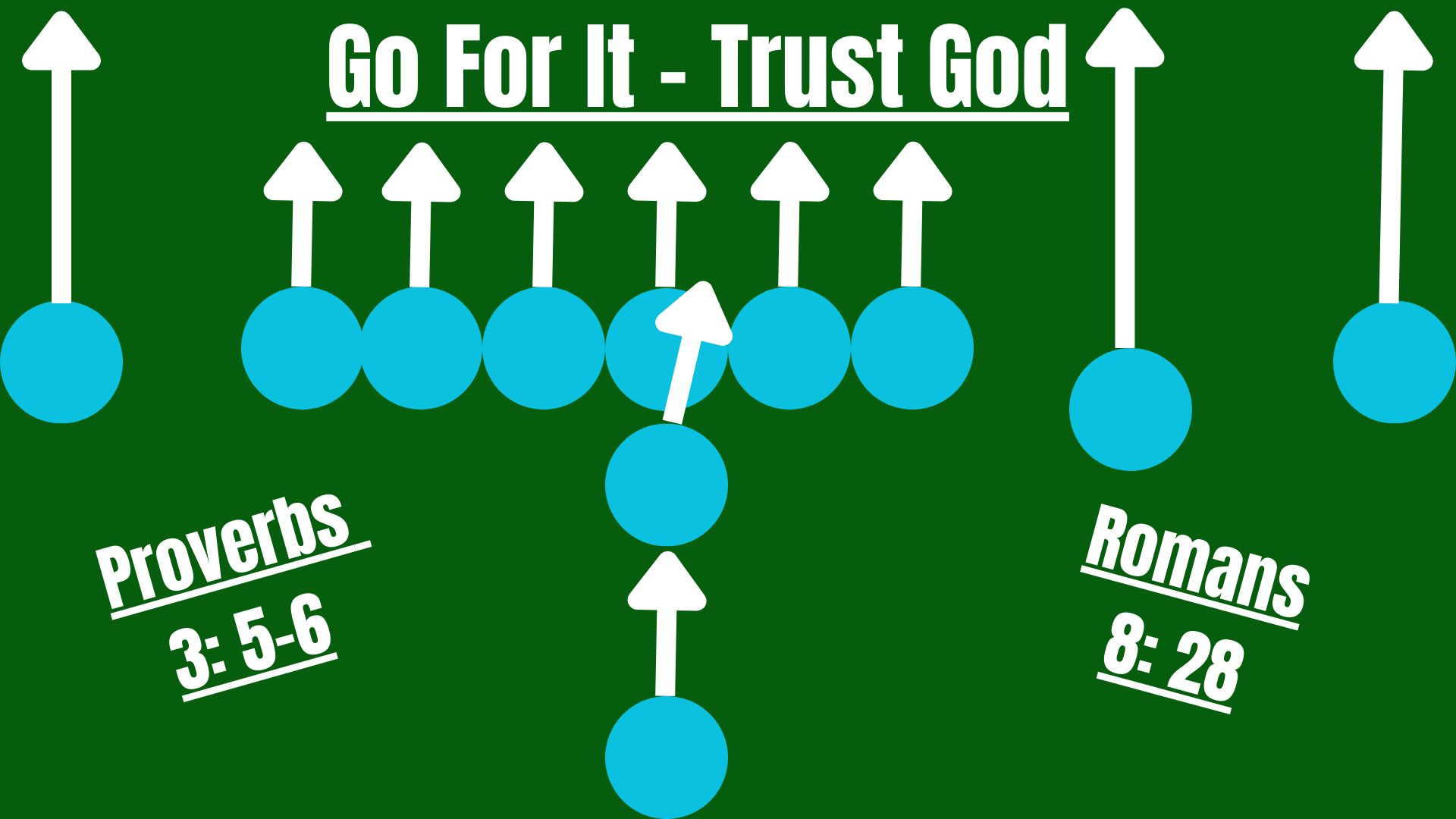
Romans 8: 28 NIV

God Works Things Out

- ★ **Very future oriented**
 - **May not see the good now, but it's our good for eternity in heaven with God**
- ★ **God's way will always work we just have to trust Him**



Go For It - Trust God



Proverbs
3: 5-6

Romans
8: 28

Go For It With God

- ★ Trust God more than you trust yourself
- ★ Things may not make sense now
 - God never promises His plan will make sense
- ★ Trusting God might be one of the toughest plays to run but it's huge



Take The “W”

- ★ God will call these plays in our lives
- ★ Take the win - the win is JOY
- ★ No matter what we have a God who loves, forgives and offers grace
- ★ Take joy in that
- ★ God calls the player and calls the plays

Audio file

[God The Ultimate Play Caller Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

So they make it all. Fun, right? I. I am looking forward to the game itself on the sports fan. We. However, we're going to watch. There's a kids broadcast on Nickelodeon, the NFL slime time broadcast. We're gonna watch that with our kids or like, overlay different things. Like, if the game was on Nickelodeon, I think Sponge Bob is like the sideline reporter or something like that. So we'll watch the other kids and think it'll be fun. UM. See. It's on Nickelodeon or Paramount plus. If you subscribe there as well, but so you can watch that too. Now whether you like it or not, some of you are excited for the game. So you're like, please just let this thing be over. It is a massive thing in our society. It is a spectacle. People talk about it. Many people just think the Monday after should be a national day off of work. I'll take tomorrow off. Why not? Whether you want to or not? It's huge. So we thought we'd have a little fun with it. We did this last year. We have an event. Kind of like your own pregame with our church and chi. The White Board is up here. We'll get to that. I did this last year. I like to call coach. Speak. I'm. I'm not a football coach, but I coached my son soccer team starting next week. I'm coaching his basketball team. We'll see how that goes, but we're going to get to this in a little bit, but we'll talk about with football today as this football teams have players, but they also have. Coaches who call the plays. Right. They call the players, they tell the players what to do, what we're going to look at today is how God is, in essence, the play caller in our lives. God, the Ultimate Play caller would be our theme today. Now play callers for football teams. You'll see this tonight in the game. If you watch it, they're going to call plays based on strategy, what their team is good at, what they think the other team is going to do, all this kind of stuff. As Christians, God calls us to certain plays, but the cool thing I will start with is the fact that God actually wants us on his team. If you know how professional sports teams work, usually you get drafted. They have to want you. On their team, God wants us on his team and he also calls the play. So the way we look at it today is this God calls the player and he calls the place. So God calls the player us and he calls the plays in our lives. So let's look first at how he calls us. Just as the player to be a part of his team, we're going to read Mark one versus 16 through 20. This passage is bookmarked. On those Bibles, on your table. But everything I read. From today will be. Up here on the screen as well. So Mark 1 verses 16 through 20 says this as Jesus

walked beside the Sea of Galilee. He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting Annette into the lake for their. Fishermen come follow me, Jesus said. I will send you out to fish for people at once. They left their Nets and followed him and he had gone a little farther. He saw James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John in a boat preparing their Nets without delay. He called them. They left their father's body in the boat with the hired men and followed him. So this almost this is like. Jesus coming and drafting his disciples. Right. He chose them. This was not the other way around. This was actually a little more radical in Jesus Day. Usually these people that would follow teachers and rabbis, they'd get all educated in school and they would pick which Rabbi. They would follow. Jesus flipped the script. He went. Nope. You come with me. You come with me. And the men he chose, they weren't super special or elite by any sort of society. Standard or fisherman, which was fine, but they weren't anything super special. But they heard Jesus called them and they followed him. They left what they were doing and they went following him, meant giving up what they had. Fishing could be a decent profession at the time. If we look at James and John, their dad, Zebedy had the business they would have stood to inherit the business and anything that came with it, but they left. They left all that they were willing to follow. So we want to think about today as that Jesus chose you, no matter who you are, no matter what you've done, if you've never wanted anything to do with Jesus, if you followed him and walked away, if you've never heard of him, if you've done things in your past that you regret, Jesus still wants all of us here on his team. He wants you to follow him. Even if you feel like I'm tied to this thing over here, he's like, no, you can break from that and follow me this way. OK, cool. I decided to do that. What? What do I get? Right? What's this? Get me. Well. Love, forgiveness, grace, and eternal life, one of the most famous passages in the Bible, John 3:16 and 17 for God so loved the world. He gave his one and only son. Whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his son into the world to condemn it, but to save it through him. So we're given eternal life. That's. What Jesus came to do to save us, to save. If you now, if you've never said yes to that, to following him, you can do that today. You can talk to me or one of our leaders. All of our leaders are wearing these name tags. You can talk to us about that after service. Or maybe you said yes. You're like, I got to recommit to that. Right. I need you to think it through again. You can. Do that or maybe like I'm following him. We need to reassess what that really means. Again, make sure I'm doing it well. The fact is, God shows us. When we follow him, it's like signing for that team that drafted us. OK, so we're on this team. God shows us he wants us there. We're there now. We have to understand that God is calling the plays in our lives. We're going to get into four different plays today. Now, these aren't exhaustive. These will not be the only things God will do in your life. But they're one, I think, in some ways. Shape or form, he will cause all two. Now I am not a set a football coach. If these are diagrammed incorrectly, I apologize and get on me for that later, but we're going to see how

these plays relate to the plays God calls in our lives. We're going to start with the first one. The run play. That's this one up here basically very. Simple this guy here gets the ball from the center, hands it to the running back and he runs. That's it. It's pretty basic. Teams run something like this all the time. It's a foundational play of what they're trying to do as a team. It sets the tone. We have a run play and I'm going to describe our run play as reading our Bibles and praying. And we'll look at 2 scriptures. That go with that because these are the basics in our lives. If you can't read this, that's OK too. My handwriting is moderately good. Second Timothy. 3:16 and 17 this will be up on the screen too. And first Thessalonians. 5:16 to 18. Let's look at those. Alright, so there we. Go. So the basics. Let's start with second Timothy 3:16 and 17 says all scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good. Work so. All scripture is God breathed. This means that the words in the Bible come from God and what he says is useful to us. So we have all these different writers in the Bible. They wrote in their own voice, but God inspired them to write. So we believe in the Bible being the living and breathing word of God and a like living breathing, because it's not just this ancient. Book that doesn't matter anymore. Those written forever ago. It's old. It's just a history book. No, it's actually a library of 66 books that are still relevant to providing guidance for our lives today. So to follow God, we need to know who he is and what he said. Think about it. If you've ever written a paper back in any part of school, you went to the books you researched. OK, what happened? Who was this person? The Bible helps us with that. With God. It teaches us who God is and what he's done. It also gives us rebuke. It says things we're not supposed. You do. There are things that God doesn't want us to do, not so different from a parent child. There are things they don't want you to do, and you might get rebuked. God does that behavior that doesn't honor him. It's also good for correcting things. We need to change in our lives. We're going, and we gonna veered off course, right. And God's, like, proceed to the route like our GPS will tell us. OK. He's going to correct it. Maybe you've been told something in the past about God that isn't actually true. The Bible helps us see who God really is, so it helps us become faithful and good servants of God and trained well and learning what to do right? Reading the Bible. And we're first Thessalonians 5:16 through 18. Rejoice always, pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. It says, pray continually. So if reading is helping us get to know who God is, then praying is talking about it with him. Talk to him. You can ask questions about what you've read. You can be thankful. You can be confused. You can be upset and frustrated. You could be happy. It can all be great. It doesn't matter. Just talk to him, pray continually. This grows our relationship. With God, these are the two basics and they build our foundation as followers of Jesus. I remember watching football when I was younger a lot and teams ran the ball like this a lot more than they do now. How is this more boring play? Because they would go and

this guy would seem to like run into this guy and go like 2 yards and it was over. Like, this is boring. It's basic. Why are we doing this? Let's do something more exciting. But this was important. This built a foundation. That's what God wants us to do. We'll get to the fun stuff, the crazy stuff, but he wants these foundations, so God wants us to run this play over and over. It shapes us as a follower of Jesus. If you want to read the Bible and you have no clue how great we can help you a little bit with that, you open up your Bible and the first book of the Bible is Genesis. I'm going to encourage you to not start there, go to the New Testament, start with Mark, learn about Jesus right away. You get back to Genesis at some point, right starting Mark. Start with the gospels. That tells the story of Jesus. If you need ideas, you visit our website hometownvarona.com. We have a resources page that lists a number of different Bible plans using the Bible app for free. Any of those Bibles on your table? If you need a Bible, please just take one. You need a physical one. That is our gift to you. All of you is phones and tablets you have. Access to. A Bible. There's an app shocker, right? App for everything. Lots of Bible apps. There's some good ones too. You've version is the one many of us use, so it's there. Read it. And if you've read the Bible before, the entire thing. Don't go to sleep on me because you're not out of this. We all can read it again. There is not like the sequel to the Bible coming that you need to wait for. We need to go back and read it. Again, because God's. Going to give us more through it, we're going to start a series on the book of Philippians next week. That is probably the book in the Bible. I've read the most times and I get something. Different every time. Because there's a different way to use it. In my life. So read it again. Read it again. God will speak something new and then pray for every day. Talk to God about anything. Last week we talked about prayer. I said the best prayer is the prayer that's prayed basically meaning just pray you can't do it wrong. Don't worry about being good enough. It helps us keep God at the forefront of our minds at the back. If we talk to him continually, so do these foundations. It's not always fun. It's not always super cool, but it's really important. So the basics. But then sometimes there is the cool stuff we're going to move over here. This is called the flea flicker. See if you can follow me on this one. What happens here is we're going to start like the run play, so the running backs get the ball over here. Things get back to the quarterback who's going to throw it down to this guy who's in theory, really wide open now it's a trick play. Trick plays exist in football and other sports, really to catch the other team off guard to make you think you're doing something. But then do something totally unexpected. God might call a trick play in our lives. God might do something unexpected. That's unexpected, right? We might think we're going to do something and then do something totally different. Let me. Look at Isaiah 55. Eight through 11. All right. Is there 55, eight through 11 says for my thoughts are not your thoughts. Neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways. My thoughts than your thoughts as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without

watering the earth, making it bud and flourish so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater. So it's my word that goes out from my mouth. It will not return to me empty. That will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. God's not like us. Thank goodness he thinks in different ways. He acts in different ways, and often we can't comprehend it. He might have us do something that we don't see coming. Others don't see coming. We wouldn't want to do others might not have us do. But his plan is on a whole other level on our own. It might go against what we think or want. That it will work for God, he says. Here his word will not return to him empty handed. It will accomplish what he sent it to do the unexpected. The work. The idea of this is that you're going to think it's one thing and you do something unexpected. I don't know how often this play actually works, but it's supposed to. It's credited actually to Illini coach Bob Zuppke, who ran it in 1925. He named it because it is supposed to evoke the quick, flicking action of a dog, getting rid of fleas. That's actually where the name came from. Flea flicker. I didn't know that. Learn something every time. It's quick. You don't see it coming. It's. A trick. Play God might call a trick play in our lives. I got to. Believe when coaches call some of these, they're like a little nervous. Is this going to work? It's OK to be nervous when God calls a trick play in your life. That's only normal. There's uncertainty for us in these moments. Other people might even say don't do that. It's not a good idea. But if God calls you to it, run it. Be more focused on running the play, then the outcome of the play. We may think this isn't going to work. I'm going to. I'm going to drop the pass or whatever it is, but again, God doesn't think or work like us. If we think we dropped the pass then the play isn't over or the goal wasn't for us to catch it and score a touchdown because God's ways are higher than our ways. Remember, achieve the purpose for which God sent it. If God calls you to the unexpected run the play. Don't worry about the outcome. He's got the outcome covered, right? So we got our basics, we got our trick play the unexpected next one. The punt, the punt. Sometimes the drive comes to an end. It's 4th down and you're just going to pump the ball away, right? That place that is over at the end of the game. But just that part is over, right? So there is a time for certain things. Just say a time. We're going to look at Ecclesiastes 3 one through 8. Again, this is one I'm gonna tell you if you're new to reading the Bible, don't start in Ecclesiastes either. Yeah, we'll do that one later. So Ecclesiastes 3, one through 8 says this about punting. There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens. A time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant, a time to uproot, a time to kill, a time to heal, a time to tear down, and a time to build a time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn, a time to dance. The time to scatter stones, a time to gather them. Time to embrace a time to refrain from embracing a time to search, a time to give up a time to keep a time to throw away, a time to tear in a time to mend, a time to be silent, a time to speak, a time to love, and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace. So there is a time for everything. Every. Aspect of life different times in the Old Testament there was kind of a

theme they would know. OK, this is a time where it's going to rain. This is a time for. This is a season or time when our enemies are going to rise up or they're going to fall and the point is God's in control of all of that. All of the couplets in this passage kind of work counter to each other. There's time for one that one ends, then something else starts. So one starts, one ends and it starts. It keeps going. So God's in control of that and sometimes. It's time to be done with something in our life, so sometimes something. Life it's time to punt it away, literally. Punting is giving the ball away, but you're controlled and you're planned about it, right? So you're going to kick the ball away on purpose. The stats show that the longest punt on record was 108 yards by Zenon and Russian of the Toronto Argonauts and the Canadian Football League. In 1977, it was then tied by a kicker for the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 2011, so 100 and some yards, with a long punt. NFL punter Jeff Feagles holds the NFL record in his career with 71,211 point yards and 1713 punts in his career. That is a lot of kicking, a lot of yards covered, but the point of that is they kicked the ball away a lot. This happens, it's moving on and ending drives. God may call you to move on from something and end something. Relationships jobs where you're living anything. Like that, if God is calling you to do it, to move on from something, I want us to remember that is not quitting or giving up. We're often taught to not give up or to not quit, to push through everything. And I get that. And in general, I believe it. I believe in working through hard things, but there are times when God will call us to be done with something he did what he needed to do during that time. He's. Move on. There was a time for that is what he would say now. There's a time for something else. So we punt and we end that drive. Now this takes discernment and listening because it needs to come from God. There are times where we may want to punt and God's like, Nope. We're going to keep going or there's times where we want to keep going. That's like, Nope. We're done. We're going to. Punt. So keep following God listen, discern. And pay attention and trust when he tells you to. Move on from something. Sometimes moving on is harder than pushing through, so sometimes we have to punt. But then there are those times when we're going to go for it. It's 4th down. You have options. We could kick it away. We could do different things, but we're just going to go for it. We're going to have to trust. We have to trust in these moments, just like the teams have to trust that their coach is calling a good play. So we trust. To go for it. God's going to say, keep going. Keep going. Look at 2 passages on this. Look at proverbs. 35 and six. And Romans 828. So we're going to trust. God and go for it. Proverbs 3/5 through six is trust in the Lord with all your heart and not in your own understanding in all your ways. Submit to him. He'll you make your paths straight. Trust God. He will make your path straight. This is a meaningful passage to the Israelites. Much of the terrain and Israel would have been hilly, rocky and bumpy. So for somebody to make a smooth straight path would have been incredibly. Welcomed for that, the Hebrew roadway where we render trust. The look would have been to lie face down completely, helplessly and basically you're lying

there, face down, helpless, completely resign to the fact that God needs to take you where you're going to go. So trust is knowing that we can't do it on our own, but we'll let God guide us. Romans 8:28, we know that in all things. God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. This first is very future focus. Just Paul's writing that God is working everything together for our good. Now, this isn't necessarily our good right here in the moment on Earth. We may not see it now, but it's our good for eternity. Our good in heaven with God. God's goodness is always at work, but we're all he's looking forward to the future and the return of Jesus and future glory. So going for it is going to work in God's way, but we have to trust. There's a debate in sports right now that, should you coaches go with their gut or with what's called the analytics. So the gut would be basically I got this feeling right. I can feel it. We've all said this. I feel it in my gut. I know we should just do it. So should they go for it based on that, then there's the analytics, the numbers. Right. OK. What are the stats? Tell me and the probabilities and all this kind of stuff about. If I go forward or don't what I should do. Well, the cool thing is guys got them both covered. He fits the gut and the analytics. OK. The gut in our hearts turned towards him and trust him. So our gut is our heart. Knowing that God's there and we can trust him and the analytics comes from reading the Bible and seeing, OK, God's been good and faithful there. Good and faithful there he'll be good and faithful now. So we trust God with all of our heart. We have to trust God more than we trust ourselves. And for some, that's easier than others to trust God more than ourselves. We have to put down the pride of thinking that we know better, that our ideas are best, or that others in our lives may not know best. For us, but God does. And then we lean not on our own understanding. Basically, it may not make sense right now. Sometimes it does right. Sometimes what God's doing does make sense. Sometimes it doesn't. The thing is, God never promises that his plan will make sense. I've read the Bible. I've looked for that. It's not there as much as I want it to. But he promises us that he's working things together for our good. Remember, future good, heavenly good. There is more coming for us. That's a big part of faith is to remember that it's not all about right now. We're here today. Yes. God loves us and cares for us right now, and he's guiding us and he's here for us right now. But we're also looking. So trust God. Go for it and trust God when he calls you to that, it might be one of the toughest plays to run, but it's so important. So God will call in some way, shape or form. All four of these in our lives. Somehow it'll look different. We always talk about this in your own lives. In your context, it will look different. But run them and when you run all of them, when you run the plays, God calls. We win, we take the win and that win I believe is joy. Joy, not happiness. Not that emotion of feeling good, but joy. Something we choose to have, knowing that we have is about something bigger. We have a taste of what's coming, but it hasn't come yet in its fullness that we have God, that loves us, forgives us, and offers US grace and eternal life. And he is in control we take. Joy in that. And if that sounds good, I

would love for you to come back next week as we start our series on Philippians with the theme being joy or say joy, choose to choose it because we choose to take joy in our lives. And that's a huge win when we're able to do that, to have that joy, and who God really is. We always win. We let God call the place and remember he calls the player. Calls us to his team and he calls these plays in our lives. Let's pray. Got to thank you for this morning and we could all be here and guys, we have fun and kind of celebrate everything that's going on today. I pray that we would remember who you are in our lives. And the first part, God that you do call us. That you want us with you, that you want us and that we can accept that invitation. And we can be followers of you. God, we also thank you that you guide us and do call those plays in our lives got. So we have something to follow. We have you to follow and we're never on our own. We never have to do it completely blindly that we know. We can follow. You and we know that you're setting us up and working things together for our good God. We thank you for that. Your name. Hey man.