

**Week 5: DEFENSE**

In soccer, what does it mean to be on Defense? *The defense's responsibility is to protect the goal....don't let the other team score!!* When someone asks you how your game went, they almost always ask if you scored any goals...they rarely ask how many times you kept the ball OUT of the goal and defense is equally important!! As a team, we could score 20 goals, but if the other team scores 21 because you did not defend, we will still lose. And although everyone is given a specific position, every team member has to play defense when the other team gets the ball...this is not the responsibility of just one or two players.

Do you remember who we talked about in the Bible last week? Yes, we talked about David! After David went on the OFFENSE and defeated Goliath, he became well known among the Israelites as a great warrior. In fact, he became known as such a great warrior, he was considered a better warrior than King Saul.....this made Saul extremely jealous! Saul became SO JEALOUS that he decided he wanted to kill David. For about *thirteen years* David had to run and hide for his life so Saul could not get to him. During this time, David had one main defense and you read of it time and time again in Psalms...**anyone know what it was?** *His defense was PRAYER, and ultimate defender was GOD!* David prayed for his safety, he prayed God would deliver him from Saul's hand. He prayed for God to direct where he should go and what he should do in order to escape Saul. In Psalm 59, David prayed "Deliver me from my enemies, Oh my God; defend me from those who rise up against me". **In response to his prayers, what did God do for David?** *The Lord protected David. He guided David and continued to fulfill His purpose in David, eventually making David KING in Saul's place!!*

Have you ever faced a difficulty or scary situation that you realize you just don't have control over? What did you do? What could you do? Last week we talked about being the type of person who could be picked as a Captain for your team, and for God's calling. But much like everyone has to play defense each game, *all of us* will face things that are beyond what we can handle...something that scares us, something that makes us nervous, something we are not strong enough to overcome on our own. PRAYER is our ultimate defense in times like this so the Lord can comfort us, protect us, and guide us. **What is something or someone you have been praying for?** The Lord WANTS you to come to him in prayer. There is no wrong way to do it...just come as you are and talk to God about whatever it is you or a loved one are dealing with today.

CLOSE IN PRAYER