



ELEVATE SOCCER

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WEEK 2: ALL PARTICIPANTS

In soccer do any of you guys do the right thing every single time? Do you ever miss shots, mess up a pass, or accidentally foul? Yes! Did you know in a single game of soccer there are a lot of different participants. There are parents involved, referees, coaches, YOU, opponents and teammates. And not a single one of you is perfect!! Sometimes the ref will miss a call, you may dribble into a defender, your coach might put someone in the wrong position and MORE. We are NOT perfect!!

Do you know who the first imperfect people were? Adam and Eve! Adam and Eve were the first man and woman created by God and they were placed in a *perfect*, beautiful garden called Eden. They were allowed to eat any of the delicious plants God had placed there, but were told by God not to take the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Both Adam and Eve knew this, but so did Satan who came to Eve in the form of a Serpent and convinced Eve she would be as wise as God if she would eat the forbidden fruit. So she did....and then she convinced Adam to try it as well! As soon as they did it they realized they had done wrong and felt ashamed. They had been offered protection, food, and unity with God, but they did the one thing they were asked not to. **When God asked Adam what he had done who did he blame?** He blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent! This is a story of the moment sin entered the world.

What is "sin?" (Sin is Disobeying God) **Are any of you so perfect that you NEVER make God unhappy, never sin?** (NO! And if you think that's not true, lets talk to your parents:) Sadly Adam and Eve started their lives with God but sin separated them from God. God is perfect and requires perfection to be in Heaven with Him. God sent them away from their paradise, and sin, death, and suffering entered the world from then on.

It can be easy to blame our siblings, our circumstance, or others for the mistakes we've made. But in the end we need to understand and accept that we MESS UP and make bad choices...ALL of us! Romans 6:23 says the "wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life". God already knew we would make poor choices sometimes and would disappoint Him. He knew on our own we would never be able to reach perfection and live with Him. But He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins so we could be forgiven and spend eternity with Him.