

Encouragement

Story: In the 2006 NFC Wild Card playoff game, the Seattle Seahawks hosted the Dallas Cowboys at CenturyLink Field. With a little over one-minute left in the game, the Cowboys lined up for a potential game winning 19-yard field goal attempt. The ball was snapped to the holder, quarterback Tony Romo. However, the ball slipped through his fingers resulting in one of the most painful losses in Dallas Cowboy history.

Tony Romo would become one of the most criticized quarterbacks of his generation. He was the one who never could win the big game. However, at the end of his career he was the Cowboys' all-time leader in passing yards, passing touchdowns, and passer rating. He ranked third in quarterback wins behind Troy Aikman (94) and Roger Staubach (85).

Romo surrounded himself with others who believed in him. Jerry Jones gave him an astronomical salary because he believed in him. Terrell Owens gave his famous tear-soaked, "That's my quarterback" speech about Tony Romo. Encouragement is like oxygen to the soul. We are not meant to go through this life alone.

Questions to consider:

A needle can inflate or deflate a ball. Are you breathing life into others?

Why do we as people need encouragement?

What does a little encouragement do for you or a teammate?

What are some activities your team has done to help bring your team together before, during, or after the season?

Context: Jesus mission of giving His life for our sins and defeating death has been finished. Those who have accepted the free gift of the forgiveness of sins and turned from their old ways are now in a right relationship with God. God is for us and no longer against us, no matter how we feel or what we go through in this life. The lives we live here on this earth aren't easy. We still struggle with sin because of the world, our flesh, and the devil. We as believers in Christ need one another in order to be strengthened and be who God wants us to be.

Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-25

1. What should believers do to remain confident?
2. What was causing the believers to become discouraged and want to quit?
3. Those who are discouraged have the natural tendency to do what?
4. What helps us when we are going through hard times?

Key Verse: "...let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24

Anchor to remember:

- Give encouragement to others often
- Encouragement builds the confidence of others