



ONE VOICE

Discussion/Groups Guide from the Weekend Talk

From the Weekend Talk of February 6-7, 2021

Football Weekend "Unshaken"

Life Groups use these questions to go deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. If you are not in a Group, find out more at www.alivechurch.com/groups.

You can also use this guide to discuss the Talk with your family or friends.

Conversation Starters

- 1.4 billion chicken wings were eaten last year on Super Bowl Sunday. What's your favorite party snack?
- Do you remember where you were a year ago for the Super Bowl? Oh, how times have changed!
- Did you watch the Super Bowl? Did your team win?
- If you watched, were there any times when it would have been easy to be "shaken" as a fan of one of the teams?
 - Even if you didn't watch, have you experienced a time when you were—or could have been—shaken in your faith? When was that?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Experience

The Weekend Service was a bit different than a typical weekend at Alive Church. We heard from NFL players as they shared their experiences of faith and living in a world full of fear, knowing that when we are In Christ, we are **Unshaken**, which happens to be the Theme for Football Weekend!

- **The key verse for the weekend is Psalm 16:8 (p.420* NLT) "I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me." NIV translates it: "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."**

Here are a few highlights we saw from the stories of some current and former NFL Players who have experienced God's unshakable love in their lives.

Sam Acho. Chicago Bears.

- Sam got involved in prison ministry. He saw restoration in the lives of prisoners. After he signed a multi-million dollar contract, things weren't right in his life. He opened up to a teammate. Later that teammate asked him, "Are you good?" He replied, "No!" with tears streaming down his face. The teammate replied, "Nice to see you." In other words, NOW you are being real.

- Sam: *"God says, 'I see you.' Yet we get trapped in thinking we have to have it all together. But God says, 'I am enough.'"*
- Sam went on to say how important it was for him to be authentic. And it's a daily decision.
- **Hosts Ben Watson and Tony Dungy also commented on what Sam Acho said:**
 - Ben: *"Do we believe in a God who is 'enough'?"*
 - Tony: *"It's OK to say, 'I'm not OK.'" "God doesn't pretend [so why should we?]"*
- **DISCUSSION:**
 - How about you? When have you come to the point of realizing that you were hiding behind a façade of looking good and having things in control when, in fact, you were torn up on the inside?
 - How do you make the "daily decision" to be real with God and with others?

Brandin Cooks. Houston Texans.

- Brandin came to faith in Jesus and then was baptized in the training room whirlpool by some teammates. Then his faith really got tested, along with the faith of his wife. They wanted to have kids, but it wasn't happening. They were not able to get pregnant. So they decided to do in vitro fertilization (IVF). The process was very rough on her. Hundreds of shots. Then, she was pregnant. Baby Maverick Archer Cooks was born September 28, 2020.
 - *"God's love was magnified when we had a child. It's a different meaning now."*
- **Hosts Ben Watson and Tony Dungy also commented on what Brandin Cooks said:**
 - Tony: *"It's hard to say, 'I understand, God. Even when it doesn't make sense.'" "God is sovereign in all things. Even the uncertain things."*
- **DISCUSSION:**
 - When have you had to acknowledge God's sovereignty even when you did not understand what was happening?
 - What helps you, specifically, when you face uncertainty?

A Conversation on Racial Justice

Ben Watson had a conversation with former NFL players Eric Boles and John Kitna. They talked candidly about race and racial justice. They also invited us to see more of their interview at www.FootballSunday.com/Justice

Here are a few quotes from their interview excerpt:

- Eric: *"We gotta put the word of God first. God's Word is sharper than a two-edged sword.... We gotta let Him work.... We are to go into ALL the world and connect.... We need to be on offense.... We don't need to be afraid of the world."*
- Ben: Quoted from Jesus' prayer in John 17: *"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they*

be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one." (John 17:20-21 (p.825*))

▪ "Jesus is praying for unity.... We can't sit by.... We need to get involved."

- John: "The problem gets fixed by starting with the individual.... Do we really believe God made all in His image? (See Genesis 1:26-27 (p.1*)) If we do, then there is no room for hate.... If I hate others then I'm saying 'I hate God.'... Do I show favoritism?"

- **DISCUSSION:**

- Do I show favoritism?
- Do I pray for unity?
- How can I make a difference in this issue?
- Do I really believe God made all people in His image?

Carson Wentz. Philadelphia Eagles.

- He said his idea of being good was just acting good. Then a college teammate asked if he'd ever read the Bible. It then came to life in him. He thought it was all about what he could do for God. Now he understood His grace and it changed his life.
- He met his wife in Haiti on a mission trip in 2017. Now their daughter 7 months old.
- In 2017 the Eagles were doing great but then he got hurt and Nick Foles led them to a surprising Super Bowl victory.
 - Carson said that now he knew he then had zero control of his life. But God moved in his life even in that tough situation. He realized that living for God's glory was more important than winning a Super Bowl. He now wants to be Spirit-led and not Carson led.
 - Now as a dad, he knows another level of God's love. Faith is so much more than the X's and O's of football.

- **DISCUSSION:**

- When did you come to realize that you can NEVER make yourself good enough for God's favor? Remember Jesus died for you even while you were still a sinner. (Romans 5:8 (p.860*))
- When have you felt like you had no control over what happens in your life and that you just have to trust God?

Final thoughts from Ben Watson and Tony Dungy.

- Ben: The truth of God's unconditional love is found in 2 Corinthians 5:19 (p.884*) "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation."
- Tony Dungy: "Have you been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ?"

Here's a list of Bible passages related to being unshaken even when faced with challenges. You also have some discussion prompts and questions that follow the passages.

- Psalm 16:7-9 (p.419*)
- Psalm 33:8-12 (p.427*)
- Psalm 62:1-2; 62:5-7 (p.440*)
- Isaiah 28:16 (p.537*)
 - See these allusions to and quotations from this verse in the New Testament:
 - Romans 9:33 (p.864*)
 - 1 Corinthians 3:11 (p.871*)
 - Ephesians 2:20 (p.896*)
 - 1 Peter 2:4-6 (p.935*)
- Acts 2:25 (p.831*) (Quoting our key verse, Psalm 16:8)
- 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3 (p.906*)

As you read through the preceding passages, consider...

- What stands out to you in each passage?
- What has been YOUR experience with being shaken or UNshaken?
- How do you actually embrace the truth of God's Word in practice instead of just in theory? IE how do you actually live your life unshaken?
- How would you talk with someone else who may be facing a challenge?
 - How can you encourage them? Be specific.
 - How do these passages encourage you?
 - How do they challenge you?

Foundations of Faith

FYI: We have a three-week Cycle of our **Foundations Classes** beginning Sunday, February 14 at 1:30pm. Classes 2 & 3 are February 21 and 28 at the same time. Let us know if you are interested! www.alivechurch.com/foundations

Next Step

My Next Step: ___ I will come back next weekend for the start of our new talk series, Back to Basics.

- Use the link on the app or go to your Connection Card at www.alivechurch.com/card to indicate you are taking this Next Step so that we can pray for you.

What's Ahead

- **Our next Series begins THIS Weekend (February 13/14): "Back to Basics,"** as we talk about Love, Sex, and Dating.

- **Be sure to register online for in-person services.** To help us maintain attendance and social distancing recommendations from the CDC and state and local officials, we ask that you please register online for you and your family and guests.
 - Go to www.alivechurch.com/service
- **Have you signed up for our Alive Church Newsletter?**
 - Sign up here: www.alivechurch.com/newsletter

* The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one. We also have a Kids Edition of the Bible, as well.