



**A Three Week Sports Themed
Outreach For Youth Ministries**



What's This All About?

ri-valed, ri-val-ing or (*especially British*) **ri-valled, ri-val-ling**. noun

*a person who is competing for the same object or goal as another, or who tries to equal or outdo another; competitor, a person or thing that is in a position to dispute another's preeminence or superiority: **dictionary.com***

Rivals are a part of sports and life. You can have a rival high school football team or rival spelling bee competitor. Think about the movie Dodgeball (or any movie like it) that narrows down the competition to two likely opponents or rivals. It makes movies interesting and it makes life interesting. Rivals are as old as, well, the Bible.

Football season is upon us. You can't escape it so why not use it to your advantage to reach young people for Christ. This three week teaching series looks at rivalries of biblical proportions.

Here are the three rivals we'll be looking at

- Cain and Abel (The Prize: Affirmation)
- Jacob and Esau (The Prize: Blessing)
- David and Saul (The Prize: Position)

As the definition above states, rivals are competing for the "same object or goal as another" In each of the cases above, a prize was at stake. The prizes speak to our every day life and our spiritual identity in Christ. I have mapped out three possible meetings, feel free to change anything or everything. The goal of these meetings are two-fold: give kids a way to invite their friends to your youth program, unwrap truth from God's word in relevant terms when they do arrive at your youth meeting.

We all have our rivals, but the question is, "Who will win the prize?"



How To Use This Material

This is a three week (or four) outreach so you'll need to prep your kids and leaders.

•Choose the local rivalry

This could be between two high school, college, or pro teams.

Not into football, you could choose two local pizza places (Papa Johns vs Dominoes)

Or Ice Cream Places (Quickie Freeze vs Slushy Mart)

Choose your rivalry and then use some of the other rivalries as weekly challenges (more about this in the idea section)

- Your kids must choose a side

Your kids will do this automatically. Make sure your kids to choose a side and stick with it. You may want to create a list and let kids sign up. Make sure you have an equal amount of adults on each side for leadership purposes.

- Choose a Prize

What are the kids playing for? Team swag? Pizza party? Money off a trip? Get suggestions from your kids and then stick with it.

- Give the kids a side of the room to decorate

Let them go crazy with posters, banners, etc. My advice? Use sticky tack so you do not mess up any walls.

- Get The Word Out

Spread the word anyway you can. Hand outs, posters, social media, video, etc.



How To Use This Material (Continued)

- Meeting Prep

Each meeting is laid out for you, including openers, closers, and message points. Feel free to use the game ideas I have provided or make up your own or combine them.

- Atmosphere is everything

The decorations are all part of building an atmosphere but don't stop there. Use music that they play in stadiums, do the wave, sell hotdogs and peanuts. Make it seem like kids are coming into the stadium for the big game.

The above are only peripheral points. These extras only set up the group for the meeting and the message. Here is how the meeting are set:

R vs R- This is contest between rivals. You can call it face off or anything else you'd like. I have included a few inks where you can download free game idea,.

Funny Clip: I have a few suggestions but feel free to search around the web.

The Scriptures: These are the scriptures I will focus on. You could put these on big posters boards for the "fans" to hold. They can be a part of the points you share later.

The Points: I'll offer a few points for consideration about the passage. Feel free to add or subtract.

The Score: This is where you wrap up the night.

CAUTION: Having a rival themes night can become sketchy if we do not lay down ground rules. Everyone must understand that the goal of these weeks is to share the good news of Jesus Christ. These nights are not about which team is really better and we must offer our kids a caution about trash talking, hard feelings, etc. If you are doing a points system, I would take away points for any negative behavior or talk about the other's team.

RIVALS

WEEK ONE

R vs R- Choose from the list of potential games on the Rival vs Rival List

Opening Video Clip (optional) : [Top Ten College Football Rivals](#) (If you don't like the music, play your own song while showing the video.)

Transitional Statement: You just saw some awesome rivals. They battle every year on Saturday, but rivals have been around since the beginning. Tonight we'll look at brothers, one sought righteousness and the other sought rivalry. The prize in this case is attention.

The Scripture: Genesis 4, 2 Corinthians 10:18, Philippians 2:3, John 5:44

The Prize: Affirmation

The Points:

Our longing for affirmation drives us to compete, even with other believers.

The scriptures do not say Cain and Abel were competing against each other, but we can assume there was some rivalry simply because they were brothers. It is clear by God's comment about Cain's reaction, Cain was jealous of his brother getting God's attention and approval. Read 2 Corinthians 10:17, 18. The Lord commended Abel and not Cain. Who is your rival? Who are you jealous of? Don't compare. Be confident in who you are in Christ. Don't seek the attention or approval of humans, but seek Lord and let him commend (praise) you.

Our longing for affirmation can lead us to sin to get it.

Why do people post crazy videos, deep confessions, or just pure raunch on You Tube and other places? For attention. They want to be liked, even loved. They want us to like their stuff, comment on it, and share it with others. The scriptures are not clear about what was wrong, if anything, with Cain's offering. God did not make any more comment about Cain's offering, but he did comment on his attitude and that sin was near by because of his attitude. How about you? Is your attitude towards a rival causing sin to knock at your door?

Our longing for man's affirmation makes us devalue others.

Cain was so bitter at his brother that he responded to God with "Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain had just murdered his brother and was without remorse. Is it any wonder, that in our culture that people kill, prank, or destroy others for the sake of attention? When we have a rivalry in our heart, we will no longer believe that we have any responsibility for the safety or well being of others around us. We'll try to "win" attention at any cost. If you want God's attention and affirmation, give to, love, and serve others. Read 5:44 Cain needed this verse, but, it's possible Cain was not seeking praise from God at all.

The Score: Read Philippians 2:3, and say " This may have been Cain's problem. He thought of himself as better than Abel. Our attitude towards others will impact how we treat them and how God receives our offerings." Close in prayer.