

GOAL OF LIFE: SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PLAN

(Age 9 / Year 4)

Age group 9 (Year 4) | Length: 12–15 minutes

Theme

What has the Bible got to do with football?

Key Message

Lots of people (including footballers) read the Bible because it helps them know Jesus, who loves them and can guide them through the highs and lows of life.

Aims

- To connect something familiar (football) with something many find meaningful (the Bible).
- To introduce the idea that Jesus is at the centre of the Bible story (linked to Mark's eyewitness account).
- To help pupils think about identity: we are more than our performance.
- To give a calm moment for reflection, with an optional prayer (appropriate to your school's policy).

Safeguarding and Staff Note:

The booklet includes an interview with heavier themes (mental health, addiction, suicide). For a Year 4 assembly, avoid reading that section aloud. Keep references general and age-appropriate, and follow your school's safeguarding procedures if any pupil raises a personal concern.

Resources Needed

- A football (or a picture of one).
- A Bible (or the booklet pupils are receiving).
- Optional: two signs/cards that say WIN and LOSE.
- Optional: a whistle or timer to keep pace.

Running Order (with suggested words)

Time	Focus and Notes
0-1	<p>Welcome & Attention grabber</p> <p>Hold up a football and ask: "Hands up if you've ever played football at playtime or watched a match?" Then hold up the Bible/booklet and ask: "Hands up if you've ever seen someone read a Bible?"</p>

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1-3	<p>Big question</p> <p>Say: “Today’s question is: What has the Bible got to do with football? It might sound like two totally different worlds... but lots of footballers read the Bible before matches.” Briefly mention (without listing many names): “Some Premier League players have said the Bible helps them stay calm, hopeful, and remember what matters most.”</p>
3-5	<p>What’s in this booklet?</p> <p>Try saying something like this: “This booklet includes part of the Bible called Mark. Mark wrote down an eyewitness account of Jesus’ life—what Jesus said, what he did, and why people followed him.” Add: “Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God, and that his death and resurrection are the biggest ‘game-changer’ in history.”</p>
5-9	<p>Interactive activity: “More Than My Score”</p> <p>Step 1: Invite two volunteers to the front. Give one the WIN sign and the other the LOSE sign (or just say the words).</p> <p>Step 2: Ask the audience: “If you win a match, how might you feel?” (take 2–3 answers). “If you lose, how might you feel?” (2–3 answers).</p> <p>Step 3: Say: “Sport is brilliant—but it can make us feel like we’re only as good as our last result. Some footballers in this booklet said they tied their whole identity to how they played.” Step 4: Ask: “What are some things that make you you—even when you have a bad day?” (family, friends, kindness, effort, learning, faith, hobbies). Key line: “Christians believe that Jesus offers a stronger identity: you are loved, valued, and not defined by a win or a loss.”</p>

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7-11	<p>Short Bible moment (Mark)</p> <p>Step 1: Invite two volunteers to the front. Give one the WIN sign and the other the LOSE sign (or just say the words).</p> <p>Step 2: Ask: "If you win a match, how might you feel?" (take 2–3 answers). "If you lose, how might you feel?" (2–3 answers).</p> <p>Step 3: Say: "Sport is brilliant—but it can make us feel like we're only as good as our last result. Some footballers said they tied their whole identity to how they played."</p> <p>Step 4: Ask: "What are some things that make you you—even when you have a bad day?" (family, friends, kindness, effort, learning, faith, hobbies).</p> <p>Key line: "Christians believe that Jesus offers a stronger identity: you are loved, valued, and not defined by a win or a loss."</p>
11-13	<p>Quiet reflection (and optional prayer)</p> <p>Say: "Let's take 20 seconds of quiet. Think of one thing you're excited about and one thing you find hard."</p> <p>Optional prayer (adapt to your school's policy): "Jesus, thank you that you love us. Help us remember we are more than our performance. Please give us courage when we feel worried, and help us be kind teammates and friends. Amen."</p>
13-15	<p>Closing</p> <p>Say: "If you're interested, take the booklet home and have a look at Mark. You might also talk to a trusted adult if you have questions." Finish with a simple send-out: "Whether you're winning or losing, remember: be a great teammate—encourage others."</p>

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Optional Follow-up (Tutor Time / RE / PSHE)

- What do people mean when they say something is a “game-changer”?
- Why might some footballers read the Bible or pray before a match?
- What are healthy ways to deal with losing or making mistakes?
- What qualities make someone a great teammate (in sport and in class)?
- If you could ask Jesus one question after hearing about him in Mark, what would it be?