

## The Prayer Huddles

In *Sports Spectrum*, Ken Walker tells how after a Monday night football game in 1990, several players did something for the first time that would later become a common sight.



When the game ended between the San Francisco 49ers and the New York Giants, eight players from both sides gathered in a huddle in the center of the field at the 40-yard line nearer to the scoreboard. There, they bowed on their knees for all to see and prayed together in the name of Jesus Christ.

The brief prayer meetings caught on and gained their highest visibility several years later with Reggie White, who played high school football in Chattanooga and was an all-American at the University of Tennessee, and his 1997 Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers.

One Packer, Eugene Robinson, explains the purpose of the players coming together to kneel and pray: “We don’t pray about who wins the game or any of that stuff. That’s not what it’s there for. We pray basically as an acknowledgment of who God is and that men will see that He exists.”

The players have taken heat for their public stand. An article in *Sports Illustrated* advised the players to pray in private, and the NFL made noises for a while as though they would shut the practice down. But the players stood firm, some saying they were willing to be fined for the practice, and the prayer huddles went on.

A moment of truth for a believer is when he or she decides to publicly identify with Jesus Christ. It is standard practice for Life Care to offer an invocation before our meals, and to start all our annual meetings – for executive directors and directors of nursing – and our Life Care Journey sessions with a devotional. We want to thank God for His blessings upon our company, and to seek His wisdom as we serve His children.

Whether it be praying over a meal at a restaurant, carrying a Bible, wearing a pin, or mentioning the Lord in conversation, the act solidifies our commitment to Christ.

As Jesus said, as recorded in Mark 8:38: *For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His father with the holy angels.*

– Beecher Hunter