

# **FCA**

## **F O O T B A L L**

**Flag Families: We encourage you to take a few moments to read and discuss with your family over dinner or at bed time.**

### **WEEK 3:**

#### **>READY**

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” -James 1:2-4

#### **>SET**

When I was an overweight junior varsity player who mostly sat on the bench keeping stats for the rest of the team, I wanted to quit basketball altogether. But my mom encouraged me to stick it out. “You’re going to start for the varsity team next year!” she boldly declared.

It didn’t make sense at the time, but my mom had the foresight to see the potential in me that I couldn’t see for myself. Along with the help of two influential coaches in my life, I dropped nearly thirty pounds, became one of the varsity’s top players and earned a scholarship to play at the University of Charleston.

Several years later, I faced an even greater challenge when my ten-year-old son Brandon was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. Brandon’s outward behaviors were obvious. The doctors showed me the results of the tests to back up their claim the he would be institutionalized for the rest of his life. But God had revealed to me that Brandon was going to be healed one day. So I made the decision to act on that promise and persevere through the difficult days that followed.

If you’ve never faced any major troubles in your life, you will someday. That’s just life. When bad situations come, stay the course. Keep believing in God. Trust His voice over everyone else’s. With His help, you will have the endurance to persevere through any challenges you might face.

#### **>GO**

Describe a difficult time that tested your faith? How did you respond to this test? How is it possible to experience joy in the midst of a trial? Can you name a time when you experienced this?

What are some specific ways that God can strengthen your endurance and increase your faith? Name three.

#### **>OVERTIME**

Lord, thank You for Your grace and mercy. Build up my endurance through prayer and devotion so I can be ready for the difficult times in my life. Amen.