

## **Leaving It on the Field**

n/a

### **Ready:**

We are pressured in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed. — 2 Corinthians 4:8–9

### **Set**

I had just witnessed one of the most exciting and gut-wrenching football games of my life. The home team fought its way back from a ten-point deficit in the final minutes of the fourth quarter and sent the game into overtime. However, an interception destroyed the home team's effort to win. For what seemed like an eternity, the stands were quiet; no one was quite sure how to respond, but as the team began to leave the field, the fans stood, clapped, and cheered. The home team had lost the game but had captured the hearts of the fans.

In coaching we frequently advise our players after a game to "leave everything on the field." We play to win, but we are going to lose at times, and we ought not to carry these highs and lows with us afterward. In every area of life we are pressured daily by the demands of the world. Terrible things happen to ourselves and others. At times our faith is severely tested, and often we fail. Jesus is the example we must follow in difficult times. He taught us not to be anxious but to remember that He is always there during our difficult times. Win or lose, our heavenly Coach knows how we play the game.

### **Go**

1. How do you respond when you give your all but still came up short?
2. Where do you look for strength during difficult times?
3. Are you "leaving it on the field" in your daily walk with Christ?

### **Workout**

Extra Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1–15

### **Overtime**

Heavenly Father, help us to give everything we have to You. When the hard times come, teach us that we can lean on You and find comfort. Help us understand that we are winners in Your eyes because Christ succeeded at everything on our behalf. Father, we love You and thank You for loving us. Amen.



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