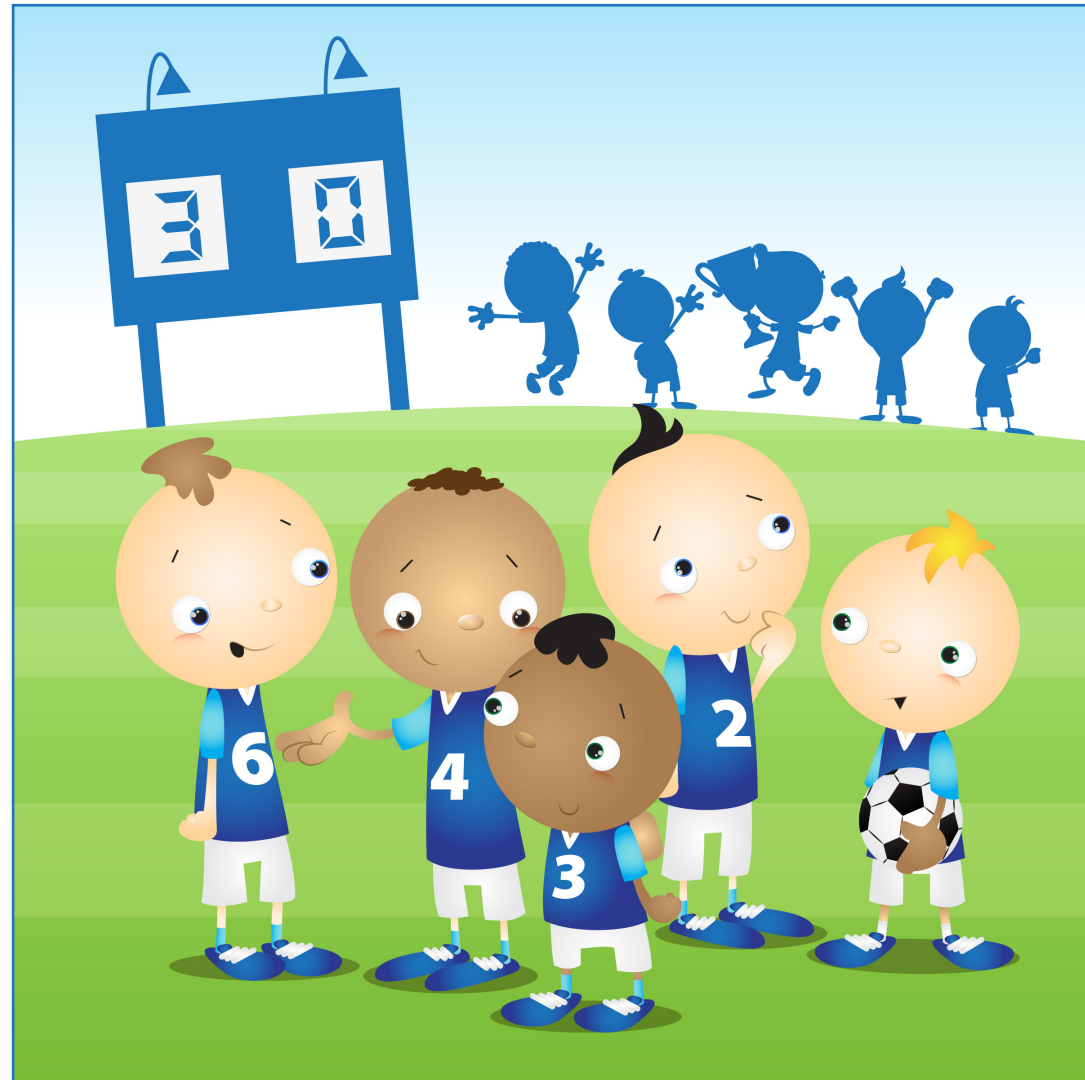


GOD'S FAVOR

"For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield" (Psalm 5:12 NKJV).

When we look to Jesus for help and support and are trying to live the way He's taught us, we can count on the shield of His loving favor to surround us. We can be assured that God is with us and caring for us during good times and difficult times. Even when disappointments come and things don't go the way we had hoped, God is with us.



When the Bible tells us that God will “bless the righteous,” it doesn’t mean we have to be perfect in order to be surrounded with God’s favor. He knows that each of us sins and makes mistakes.

God tells us, “I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me diligently find Me” (Proverbs 8:17 ESV).



So what do we need to do to have God’s favor surrounding us with a shield? Just turn to God, show Him our love, and do our best to live as He wants us to.

He wants us to do our best, but He forgives us when we fall short but are sorry for the things we do wrong and ask Jesus for help to do better.

And that’s what it takes to be righteous in God’s eyes. He is a very loving and merciful God.

“The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy” (Psalm 145:8 NKJV).

THE BIBLE IS FULL OF STORIES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD:

“And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold **Joseph** into Egypt. But God was with him and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house” (Acts 7:9–10 NKJV).¹

“And the **child Samuel** grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and with men” (1 Samuel 2:26 NKJV). It seems that Samuel was an obedient child who also loved God and did his best to be a blessing, and God blessed Samuel with His favor.²

“[King] **David**, who found favor before God” (Acts 7:45–46 NKJV).³

“Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, **Mary**, for you have found favor with God’” (Luke 1:30 NKJV).⁴

¹ Genesis 37, 39–41

² 1 Samuel 3

³ 1 Samuel 16:1–13

⁴ Luke 1:26–37



BIBLE VERSES THAT EXPLAIN MORE ABOUT GOD'S FAVOR:

“Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart [study and memorize God’s Word], and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:3–4 NKJV).

“Whoever finds me [God’s wisdom] finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 8:35 NKJV).

“A good man obtains favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 12:2 NKJV).

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