



MEET IN THE MIDDLE

A Post-Game Prayer Initiative for Coaches & Teams

Rivals on the Field. United in Faith.

PURPOSE

Meet in the Middle is a simple invitation for opposing teams to come together at midfield following the conclusion of a game for a brief, voluntary time of prayer.

Competition gives athletes an opportunity to pursue excellence, play with passion, and represent their school and community. When the final whistle blows, Meet in the Middle provides an opportunity to demonstrate that respect, sportsmanship, and faith are bigger than the scoreboard.

The goal is simple:

Compete Together. Respect One Another. Pray Together.

HOW IT WORKS

Before the game, the head coaches agree that following the final handshake, players and coaches will be invited to meet at midfield.

Participation is voluntary.

The gathering should be brief—approximately 2–3 minutes—and should not interfere with normal post-game responsibilities.

A coach, athlete, chaplain, or other agreed-upon individual may lead the prayer.

The prayer can focus on:

- Gratitude for the opportunity to compete
- Safety and health of both teams
- Encouragement for injured athletes
- Respect between opponents
- Coaches, families, schools, and communities
- Character and leadership
- Giving God glory through sport



WHY MEET IN THE MIDDLE?

Athletics provide a unique opportunity to teach lessons that extend far beyond wins and losses.

When two teams that have just competed against one another come together in prayer, athletes see a powerful example:

We can compete fiercely without becoming enemies.

We can respect our opponents.

We can demonstrate humility in victory and character in defeat.

We can remind athletes that their identity and worth are greater than the final score.

A COMMITMENT FROM COACHES

Coaches set the culture.

By agreeing to Meet in the Middle, coaches are not asking athletes to diminish competition. Instead, they are modeling how competitors can battle between the lines and still demonstrate respect when the game is finished.

We invite both coaching staffs to support the following:

Before the game:

Coaches communicate and agree on the post-game gathering.

After the game:

Teams complete their normal sportsmanship handshake.

Meet in the Middle:

Players and coaches who wish to participate gather at midfield.

Prayer:

A brief prayer is offered for both teams, their families, schools, and communities.

Finish Together:

Players return to their respective teams for normal post-game activities.



COACHES AGREEMENT

We agree to Meet in the Middle.

Our teams may wear different colors and compete for different schools, but after the game we will provide our athletes with the opportunity to come together in a spirit of faith, respect, sportsmanship, and unity.

We agree to invite our players and coaches to participate in a brief, voluntary post-game prayer at midfield.

HOME TEAM

School: _____

Head Coach: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

VISITING TEAM

School: _____

Head Coach: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____