

## **We All Make Mistakes...**

*Written by Matt Round, Ivy Church Sports Team Leader*

Lionel Messi scored his first goal in nine Champions League games against Chelsea in the most recent Round of 16, 1st leg at Stamford Bridge. The Blues had subdued Messi, and with Willian's strike in the 62nd minute, the hosts had a well-deserved lead!

Barcelona barely threatened all game - but a misplaced pass gave Andres Iniesta the opportunity to allow Messi to end his 730-minute drought against Chelsea with a crisp left-foot drive, just 15 minutes from time. It was cruel on the hosts after an outstanding display - but shows just how costly a mistake can be - swinging all the advantage in Barca's favour for the return leg.

## **Have you ever made a mistake whilst playing football?**

I remember playing in goal and making a very costly mistake. The opposition attacker broke free from our defence, realising I was out of position I started to run backwards. That was my mistake!! Saturday amateur football doesn't have the luxury of flat surfaces, and whilst trying to get in position I managed to trip myself up - stumbled over - only to watch the attackers shot bounce through my legs into an open net - whilst I sat in a heap on the floor. We lost that game by 1 goal.

## **How do you respond to mistakes made by yourself?**

## **How do you respond to mistakes made by your teammates?**

After the goalkeeping fiasco I swore to myself I would never play in goal again! I didn't want to put myself through that humiliation or let the team down again. And I'm sure some of my teammates felt the same. We all react in different ways when both we and/or our teammates make a mistake. The bible says we ALL make mistakes, we all get things wrong and we all mess up - so at least we aren't on our own in this!

Jesus told a story of a son who wanted to live life his own way. *The son asked for his inheritance early and on receiving it, left the family home for a new country. Enjoying life to the full, it wasn't long before the money was no more and the son was left without food, without shelter or any friends.*

*Reaching rock bottom, the son knew he had made a mistake and was reminded that even the workers of his father's house had food & shelter. So, the next day he set off back home - hoping his dad would allow him to live & work as a worker on his farm.*

*On returning to the family home, the father saw from a distance his son and without hesitation ran to him, hugged him and celebrated his return! **Luke 15.11-32***

## **What stands out for you in this story?**

When we make mistakes in life, and let's face it we all do, we can often feel at rock bottom. We feel that we have let ourselves, friends & family down & it can be hard to recover. The father in



this story represents God. The Good News is, God welcomes His children who have made mistakes, messed up and feel like they have hit rock bottom. He's a forgiving father – who loves His children!

I hope today, you know that no matter what mistakes you may have made in life, God loves you, cares for you and is willing you to come home to Him.

He forgives our mistakes – and celebrates our return!

**FOOTBALL  
FAITH  
FUTURE**