

**"I have come that they might**

**have life - and have it to the full"**

The beautiful game can be great – but a beautiful life is far, far better.

Why not talk to the person who gave you this about what it means to follow Jesus – or find out at a church near you?



**JESUS:**

**THE**

**GREATEST**

**PRIZE**

# THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

You know when you're watching a match, and the football really hits its stride?

It could be an outrageous piece of skill, a slick passing move or an arching, fingertip save as the keeper twists to keep out a goal-bound shot.

The beautiful game can take our breath away. And as the crowd sings its heart out, superb athletes demonstrate their skill and glory is within touching distance.

It's what brings us back, week after week, following our team.

But we know that for most of us, we only see that in glimpses. And the reality is that football is a sport with a beautiful veneer, yet with so much wrong underneath.

Crooked chairmen with no interest in the club, grasping agents, players paid obscene amounts of money, ridiculous ticket prices, corruption and deceit regular parts of an industry where the stakes are pushed higher and higher.

It has so much promise, but it's fatally flawed.

Rather like us as human beings.

The Bible tells us that we are made in the image of God, and are loved by Him. But the things we do wrong – which the Bible calls sin – drag us down and prevent us being all we have been created to be.

**"...for all have sinned and fall**

**short of the glory of God..."**

On the surface, we may look fine. But deep down we need forgiveness, a fresh start – and a future full of hope.

The old graffiti read "Jesus Saves – but Keegan scores on the rebound". Maybe replace Keegan with Harry Kane, but Jesus still saves. He took the consequences of our sin on himself when he died on the cross – and his resurrection three days later means we have a way back to God, and a fresh start.