

**Middle School**

**February 4, 2018**

## **Bittersweet**

A couple weeks ago, the Philadelphia Eagles celebrated their win over the Minnesota Vikings in the NFC Championship. The victory earned the football team a trip to Super Bowl LII in Minneapolis.

For Fletcher Cox, the Eagles' defensive end, tonight's game will be bittersweet.

Fletcher's older brother, Shadrick Cox, was Fletcher's biggest cheerleader. He suffered a fatal heart attack a couple years ago.

"That's the first person I thought about when we won," Cox said. "That's all he used to always talk about: 'I want to come to a Super Bowl game.' People are asking me what's wrong. But that's the biggest thing about all this. It's the saddest part for me, to play in the Super Bowl without my brother here."

### **Discussion Questions**

- Fletcher Cox is celebrating his biggest football victory, while also struggling with the loss of his brother. Have you ever felt two opposite (and intense) feelings at the same time? Tell your story.
- Our lives as Christians are often filled with soaring highs and deep lows. As a believer, what sense can you make of this? Why do bad things happen to "good" Christians?
- We will soon begin the season of Lent. Talk about how this part of the Church Year is bittersweet, filled with both joy and grief. What will we celebrate at the conclusion of this season?

