

Resource 5.1: answers

Twelve facts about three footballers: find out and sort out – answers



**Bukayo Saka,
Arsenal and England**

In 2022 he made his 100th Premier League appearance for Arsenal, becoming the second youngest player ever to do this. Before his 24th birthday he had scored 50 goals for Arsenal and England, including an international hat trick.

He won an award as London’s ‘Young Player of the Year’. ‘God’s work’ he tweeted, thanking God for his talent. He often raises his hands to praise God if he scores.

‘I hold onto God’s promises such as the scripture “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” So before every game I ask God to help me play well, help my team, and try to score a goal or assist a goal, and he answers my prayers so this is why I point to the sky to thank him.’

In 2022 he wrote to Year 5s at his old school: ‘I grew up in a Christian family who believe strongly in God. This always made me curious to get to know God more and I have done so by reading my Bible a lot and going to church a lot over the years. My faith is constantly being exercised when I play in big football matches.’



**Raheem Sterling,
Chelsea and England**

By the end of the 2022–23 season, he had scored 183 goals for Liverpool, Manchester City, Chelsea and England.

He says his faith deepened when he moved away from home, and he has no doubts about the reality of God. He says scientists who believe in a Creator confirm his own view of the world: made beautifully by God.

He says his Christian faith is massive, and he has always given thanks to God for his life and his family, ever since he was brought up in church as a child. He often reads the Bible in the dressing room before a match.

He is famous for his work against racism and speaking up for any black person who is a victim of discrimination. The Bible teaches that we are all made in the image of God, so every person matters, never mind their skin colour.



**Marcus Rashford,
Man United and England**

By the end of the 2022–23 season he had scored 139 goals for Manchester United and England, including 30 in the 2022–23 season.

He is a famous campaigner for free school meals and for the poorest people in society. His mum Melanie brought up five children in poor circumstances in Manchester, and he is ‘paying back’ now that he is successful and rich.

In 2016, when he was aged 19, he became the youngest player to score on his England debut. He also scored twice on his Manchester United debut a few months earlier.

He says that sometimes faith in God is shown by the people that we are: ‘For me and my family, that’s definitely the case. If you could see our lives 15–20 years ago to where we are now, it’s impossible not to have faith in God and all He does for us.’

Sources for player quotes: ‘England star Raheem Sterling says faith is “massive” to him’ *Sports Spectrum*, 30 June 2021 bit.ly/RaheemSterling_faith (their source: *GQ* bit.ly/RaheemSterling_GQ); ‘“I hold onto God’s promises” – the Christian faith of Bukayo Saka’ *Premier Christianity*, 21 November 2022 bit.ly/BukayoSaka_faith; ‘England football star Marcus Rashford: “It’s impossible not to have faith in God and all he does for us”’ *Premier Christian News*, 25 May 2021 bit.ly/MarcusRashford_faith