

GO-TO Sports Ministry



RUN WITH IT



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Overview

An effective strategy Jesus demonstrated to reach people was to go out to where they are. He commanded us “Go make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:16-20). Therefore, to do that in our communities and cities would mean to get involved where people are found such as already organised activities e.g. sports clubs/trainings, joining a sports league, joining a gym or sports centre or attending fit classes. There will always be these types of activities pretty much anywhere you go. By going to or joining in with a certain activity provides opportunities to meet new non-Christians to build relationships that can open doors to share the Gospel.

Goal

This type of sports ministry can enable you to build relationships, seek to reach and disciple ‘people of peace’ that accept you, to share with them the gospel that they would respond and come to salvation. Through building relationships it also enables you in future to invite them to other events you may put on as a church or sports ministry.



Imagine...

As Jesus commanded ‘make disciples of ALL nations.’ Imagine the impact of this type of sports ministry if there was a Christian in every team, club, activity or gym that would be a witness for Christ through the way they live and would be intentional as they build relationships in those places to be able to share the Gospel.

Target audience

As you join a club/gym or attend training sessions you will begin to build

relationships and be able to see who are 'people of peace' i.e. open to hearing about the Gospel and respond. God places people in our path that he wants us to disciple.

What can it achieve?

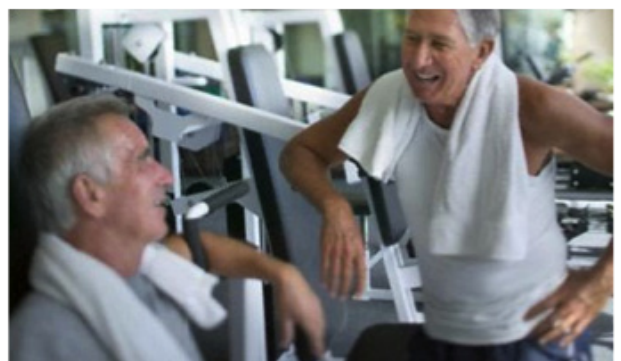
This form of sports ministry allows us to go to where people are at, instead of inviting people to come to an event. It enables Christians to build relationships with non-Christians to develop friendships and pave the way to share the Gospel. Go-to ministry also enables the Gospel to be shared with people who would not have necessarily come or been invited to an event to hear the gospel.

Key principles:

1. What type of sport/club/activity do you enjoy and have a heart for.
2. Build relationships within the team/club or at the gym etc
3. Continuously pray for specific individuals who you have built relationships with to have open hearts and opportunities to share the Gospel
4. As relationships deepen and opportunities arise, share the Gospel and invite them to other events put on by the sports ministry team or at church.
5. Continue to walk with individuals and disciple them and if they show deeper interest or make a commitment encourage them to attend a discipleship course run by a church such as alpha or Christianity Explored, this can also help bridge them to the local church.

Venue

Go to ministry can be anywhere, any club, team, leisure centre or community centre. Anywhere which people are involved in sport can be an opportune place to bring the gospel to.



Stories

“Two of the girls in our Community Sports Team had a vision to attend a local secular netball activity which runs weekly. They went and played and developed some first phase friendships with not yet believers, who were then invited to our very own outreach netball tournament that we stage every 3 months. Some of them came along and we realised that going to where people are enables us to then include them in other activities where they can mix with more believers and be influenced for Jesus.”

Supporting resources

Workers required: Yourself and/or friends

Equipment: Minimal/none, unless the sport or activity requires you to have the appropriate sports equipment

Ministry resources: Sports ministry tracts, Gospel booklets, bibles etc that could be used if someone showed particular interest to know more about Christianity.

Proclamation

The proclaiming of the Gospel in Go-to ministry is much like that Paul says in Colossians 4:2-6

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every



opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

This passage indicates we are to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel, to be praying for individuals you meet in clubs/teams or at the gym etc. To be living in a way that honours God, reflects his love and grace and to make the most of any opportunity to share the Gospel.

In 1 peter 3:15 it says you should:

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

An accompaniment to this type of ministry is that you should also be able to eventually invite individuals to outreach events that they can come and hear more of the Gospel proclaimed whether another sports ministry event or event at church.

Discipleship

All sports ministry should have a discipleship focus. A disciple is a learner of Jesus so un-believers can also be disciples. Our job as sports missionaries “going out” into our communities should be to make disciples by walking with individuals, witnessing to them through the way you live your life, allowing them to learn more about Christ. When opportunities come to talk about your faith you should ‘disciple’ them more towards knowing Christ to salvation.



In addition you should have knowledge into churches or ministries that are running discipleship courses such as alpha and Christianity Explored to be able to invite people along to having made a commitment or to learn more about the Gospel and to bridge them to a local church.

Next steps

1. Pray and decide what type of club/team/gym etc you would like to join in with.
2. Consider getting others to join you or to be praying for you in a support team (WSM specialises in helping form and equip sports ministry teams to go out and do sport ministry in the community.) Visit our community sports team page: www.worldsportministries.com/helping-you/
3. Begin attending the club/team/gym being intentional, as well as enjoying the God-given opportunity to engage in a fun activity to bring Him Glory.
4. Pray consistently for God to put individuals on your heart and create opportunities to build relationships with.
5. Continue to strengthen relationships, 'living wisely', demonstrating Christ's love and praying for opportunities to share your faith.
6. When opportunities arise share your faith "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" Romans 1:16
7. If you see that an individual is open about the gospel continue to disciple and walk with them wisely.
8. At the right time invite them and give information about going on a discipleship course such as alpha or Christianity Explored.

For more information or training on GO-TO ministry contact us directly:
adults@worldsportministries.com

WSM have a heart to serve and support, to provide resources to equip and train you and your church to reach and disciple people with the Gospel through sport.

Start a Community Sports Team

Beginning a Community Sports Team in your area and receiving training will help support you further to go out into your community to reach people and share the gospel. Starting a CST will also enable you to effectively continue to go out and do sports ministry in your area with the support and prayer you need to build and maintain relationships with people drawing them closer to Jesus Christ.

For more information on establishing a Community Sports Team visit:

www.worldsportministries.com/helping-you/join-or-start-a-cst-2/



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