

PRAYER GATHERINGS

RUN A PRAYER GATHERING IN YOUR CHURCH

SOME OPTIONS WHEN RUNNING A PRAYER GATHERING

- 15-minute prayer slot before/after a church service/meeting. Spend time praying for each other's sports mates and your local sports community.
- Prayer meeting beginning with a video (see Christians in Sport YouTube channel) or a Bible verse to fuel your prayer time (see below).
- Prayer meeting with a 10-15 minute Bible study encouraging and equip-ping you to share the gospel in sport (see next section) or the Christians in Sport website.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Keep the focus on praying for friends in sports clubs.
- Give a challenge at the end of each meeting as to who you will speak of Jesus to that week. Next meeting, ask how it was. (Provides encouragement and accountability - but remember grace and allow people to say when it is tough!)
- Great to chat and share but don't let that take away from prayer time!

VERSES TO FUEL YOUR PRAYER TIME

Matthew 28 v 18-20

The last instructions the risen Christ gives to His disciples are to make disciples of all people groups. This is by GOING (not asking people to come to us, but going to them), BAPTISING them (expect people to become Christians!) and TEACHING them to obey (we are not just looking for converts, but disciples of Jesus who want to obey Jesus - including the command to go and make disciples themselves) Jesus sends us to all nations, which means all people groups. For us that is the world of sport!

Be sure to pick up on Jesus' encouragements, which sandwich the command.

Matthew 9 v 35-38

Check out Jesus' motivation for mission. He sees that people are lost without Him, which moves Him to have gut-wrenching, heart-breaking compassion for them. He sees that the harvest is plentiful (so many people ready to hear about Christ) but the workers are few (so few Christians who can/will go to tell them). Praise God it is HIS harvest field and pray for the same compassion to motivate us to go.

1 Thessalonians 2 v 8

Paul speaks of his time with the Thessalonians and describes the way he shared both his LIFE and the GOSPEL with them. Both are extremely important. What will it look like to share both your life and the gospel with your friends in sport?

Romans 12 v 1-2

In view of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we are called to give all that we are (offer your bodies) all of the time (living sacrifice). This includes our sport! What will it look like to give up our sport to God and worship Him in the way we play?

2 Corinthians 4 v 13-14

What is Paul's motivation to speak about Jesus? He believed! He knows that Je-sus has been raised and that we too will be raised and presented to God. What a motivation to speak! Knowing that he has the best news in the world, and that no matter the cost in this life, his future is so secure. Pray that our belief in Je-sus would motivate us to speak, no matter the cost.

2 Corinthians 4 v 5-7

Praise God that He who made light shine out of darkness at creation is able to bring people from darkness to light! We know that the power to save is with God, but we are called to preach Jesus Christ as Lord. God sends us out in weak-ness (jars of clay) so that it is His power at work and the glory goes to Him.