

Life Is a Team Sport

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Did you play any team sports as a child? Explain.
2. If you could have the talent to be an Olympian in any event, what event would you choose?

Read the following passage: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

One of Paul's most frequently used metaphors for the people of God is a body. This is a simple metaphor, but it has a number of important implications.

- Firstly, I cannot possibly understand my individual purpose without understanding the purpose of the body of which I am a part.
- Secondly, the body needs me. Without me, the body will not function how it was intended to function.
- Thirdly, I need the body. I was not made to function alone, and I cannot possibly fulfill the reason for my existence on my own.
- Fourthly, I succeed only to the extent that the entire body succeeds.

In many regards, a body is like a team. Both bodies and teams consist of a variety of parts with different roles which must work together to accomplish a common purpose. If we are followers of Jesus Christ, then we are members of "Team Jesus."

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. How do you think deeply embracing the reality that you are a member of "Team Jesus" might affect how you think about your purpose in life and the way you approach each day? Do you feel like your daily mindset and activities are aligned with the mission of Jesus? Explain.
2. In the world of sports, it is very clear how a team scores points and wins games. Because the church is engaged with the much more subjective mission of transforming lives, it is often not so clear when the goal is being accomplished. What are some ways the church "scores points" or "wins"? What are you doing to help Team Jesus, the church, to "win"?
3. Below are six ways the church "wins." Which of these areas do you think you could help with?
 - Leading people to a decision to follow Jesus Christ — Luke 15:4-7
 - Teaching people to find their happiness through obeying Jesus — John 15:9-11
 - Setting an example of making sacrifices for the good of others — Mark 10:41-45
 - Helping others experience healing from physical, emotional, or spiritual brokenness — Luke 4:18-19

- Helping others experience reconciliation in their relationships — Matthew 5:9; Philippians 4:2-3
 - Leading others to embrace the mission of Jesus — Matthew 9:36-38; 2 Timothy 2:1-2
4. Sometimes the church seems to function more like a very loosely connected group of individuals rather than as a coordinated team. What are some ways you could help the church function more like a team?
5. Great teammates master the fundamentals of their game. Below are six key fundamentals of discipleship. How well are you doing in each of these areas?
- Attend Sunday services.
 - Read the Bible and pray every day.
 - Commit to a small group.
 - Serve on a Volunteer Team.
 - Pray daily for three friends who don't know Jesus.
 - Give a percentage of your income to the church.
6. What is one way you can start practically embracing your role as a member of Team Jesus?

Pray