

## Chapter 2: The Campus Ministry

### FCA Campus Ministry Overview

The Campus Ministry is initiated and led by student-athletes and coaches on middle school, high school and college campuses. The programs of the Campus Ministry include Huddles (on campus clubs, youth clubs and churches), Team Bible Studies, Assembly Programs, Chapel Programs, TeamFCA Membership, One Way 2 Play – Drug Free! program and Special Events.

During our decades of campus ministry, we realize that there are several keys to FCA campus ministry:

- ▶ Prayer Focus – praying for God to prepare the campus
- ▶ Need Oriented – identify the needs of each campus
- ▶ Teamwork – Uniting with other co-laborers and ministries
- ▶ FCA Staff meeting coaches and student-athletes where they are at
- ▶ Understand Equal Access
- ▶ Slow down and do it right – complete the proper FCA paperwork
- ▶ Train and equip the Huddle Coaches and student leaders
- ▶ Providing resources
- ▶ FCA Leadership Camp for athletes and coaches – learning how to be a spiritual leader and a campus leader
- ▶ Basic strategy – (1) at least one adult (Huddle Coach) working with the Huddle, (2) free, or access to, resources/tools for ministry. (An independent National Survey found that these two things are essential for effective campus ministry.)

FCA focuses on the campus for many reasons. FCA desires to continue to grow and expand so that we can reach more athletes for Christ for these reasons:

- ▶ There are 56,000 secondary schools (middle and high school)
- ▶ The freshman class (fall 2006) will be the largest grad class ever!
- ▶ 38,000 schools with 300 or more students
- ▶ 50% of the 56,000 are rural schools
- ▶ 99% of the population of your community will pass through these schools
- ▶ More than 80% of youth who attend church will stop going between the 7th grade and 12th grade.
- ▶ 29 million teenagers in public and secondary schools – 75% of them do not have faith in Christ
- ▶ 83% of teens maintain that moral truth depends on circumstances.
- ▶ Only 6% of teens believe that moral truth is absolute.

### 2. FCA Resource DVD

**Athletes in Motion** – Video testimonies from high school and collegiate athletes; each about five minutes. Great for small group meetings. Workouts are available on Campus eEquipment.

**Pro Perspectives** – Video testimonies from professional and elite athletes as well as their perspective on various topics (ie- teamwork, serving); 2-4 minutes each. Great for small group meetings. Workouts are available on Campus eEquipment.

#### B. FCA Athlete's Bible

▶ **There are two easy steps to make a great student-focused Huddle:**

1. Choose a Workout.
2. Choose a Warm-up.

▶ **For a great athlete-focused Huddle:**

Choose a Workout.

#### C. Outreach ideas for athletes, teams and coaches

- ▶ In the **Playbook**, on pages 146-150
- ▶ **Huddle Ministry Planner**
- ▶ On Web at [www.fca.org/Campus eEquipment](http://www.fca.org/Campus eEquipment)



#### D. Outreach ideas for all students

- ▶ In the **Playbook**, on pages 151-154
- ▶ **Huddle Ministry Planner**
- ▶ On Web at [www.fca.org/Campus eEquipment](http://www.fca.org/Campus eEquipment)



### An Overview of FCA Materials to Train Leaders

#### Discipleship for New Christians:

- ▶ **FCA Athlete's Bible**

#### Basic Training Sessions:

- ▶ In **Playbook** pages 53-73
- ▶ On the Web at [www.fca.org](http://www.fca.org) click the **Campus eEquipment** logo



#### X factor Training:

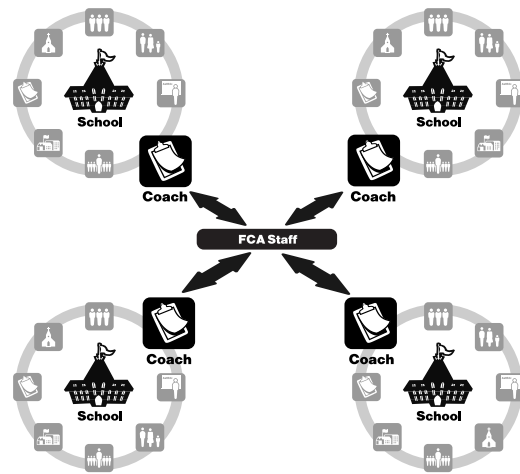
- ▶ On the Web at [www.fca.org](http://www.fca.org) click the **Campus eEquipment** logo



FCA Campus ministry is the largest Christian campus ministry in America. We serve thousands of adult volunteers who work hands-on with the students. Often we say that significant ministry begins not when the FCA staff show up on campus, but when the staff leave. Our goal is to encourage, equip and empower volunteers so that we truly give the ministry away. Therefore, it is imperative that we provide training and structure for Huddle Coaches.

## FCA's Campus Focus

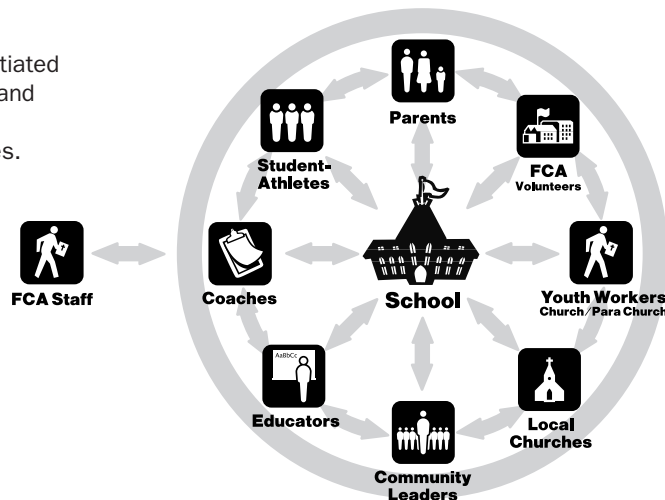
FCA's goal is to reach the coach who will have an impact on the campus. One FCA staff person can work with many campuses through equipping the volunteer Huddle Coach.



FCA's staff minister to coaches on campuses by encouraging and equipping them to know and serve Christ. It is through the coach's influence that ministry to student-athletes occurs.

The Huddle Coach serves on the school campus as one of many factors. As we equip and empower our volunteers, we give the ministry to trained volunteer staff.

FCA's Campus Ministry is initiated and led by student-athletes and coaches on junior high, high school and college campuses.



Our Huddles are designed to accomplish our mission, which is “to *present* to coaches and athletes, and all whom they influence, the *challenge* and *adventure* of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their *relationships* and in the fellowship of the church.”

A mature Huddle Ministry will minister to four target audiences: athlete leaders, Huddle members, the athletic community and the rest of the students. What does this look like?

## Present – Sharing Jesus

Our Huddle Ministry is designed to reach athletes and coaches for Christ, and as they grow and mature they will have the desire and opportunity to reach other students. Those involved in the ministry will have the opportunity to understand what FCA's mission is and be prepared to share their faith.

## Challenge – Seeking Jesus

Once an athlete knows what the goal is, he/she wants to know how to get there. So, what are the disciplines that Huddle Leaders need to be challenged with to be an effective athlete leader? We believe the most important part of being an athlete leader is that you have a personal faith in Jesus Christ. With a personal relationship with Christ, a person has the potential to do things that are absolutely incredible. We also believe that an athlete leader needs to have a close, growing relationship with Christ.

## Adventure – Leading Others

As athletes, the adventure of competition, improving, struggling and all the other parts of the athletic experience are what we live for. This adventure is what separates athletes from non-athletes and builds us into the individuals we are.

The adventure of being a Huddle Leader begins with understanding who is involved in the Huddle Ministry. There are four main target audiences: athlete leaders, Huddle members, the athletic community and the students at your school. In our X factor Training, you will learn more about how God has gifted you and your Leadership Team uniquely, along with how you can build an effective Huddle Ministry plan to minister effectively to all four target audiences.

## Relationships – Loving Others

An athlete knows that when a season is over and the championships are won or lost, it took the team to accomplish the result. It takes people connected in relationships. In the FCA Huddle Ministry, relationships are critical. There are different ways to arrange relationships in Huddle meetings, outreaches, etc., to best meet the needs of those involved.

## What the Ideal Huddle Looks Like

All athletes want to know what the goal is. In the Huddle Ministry, the goal of what that looks like could be described best by the 35 statements that comprise our **Huddle Scouting Report (HSR)**. Huddle Leaders should strive to have a Huddle Ministry that would strongly agree with these statements. The HSR will be discussed later, but here are the statements.

### Huddle Scouting Report

#### Present – Sharing Jesus

1. Student-athlete leaders feel prepared to effectively share their faith.
2. Huddle members are meeting regularly to pray for their non-Christian friends and others in their school and community.
3. At the Huddle meetings, someone regularly presents an opportunity for people to have a relationship with Christ.
4. Huddle members regularly invite their non-Christian friends to places where faith in Christ is being presented.
5. The Huddle has a well-developed plan to share their faith with athletes, teams, coaches and rest of the school.
6. Students are coming to know Christ personally on a regular basis.
7. Attendance at meetings and events is generally increasing.

#### Challenge – Seeking Jesus

1. Each Huddle Coach has a personal relationship with Christ and is involved in a local church.
2. Each student-athlete leader has a personal relationship with Christ and is involved in a local church.
3. Student-athlete leaders are allowing Christ to form their character, morals and relationships.
4. There is evidence of consistent time of Bible study and prayer in the Huddle Coaches' lives.
5. There is evidence of consistent time of Bible study and prayer in the student-athlete leaders' lives.
6. The Huddle has a well-used plan for the young/new believers in Christ to grow in their faith.

#### Adventure – Leading Others

1. Each student-athlete leader and Huddle Coach understands their spiritual gifts and sees how their strengths work with others.
2. The Leadership Team members are actively pursuing the use of their spiritual gifts.
3. The student-athlete leaders are having fun in their leadership roles.

4. The student-athlete leaders understand their responsibilities.
5. Each student leader feels they are impacting the Huddle.
6. At least two leaders from the Huddle attended FCA leadership training within the past year (Camps, workshops, etc.).
7. The Leadership Team has a written plan for their Huddle Ministry.
8. The Leadership Team meets regularly for prayer for upcoming meetings and events.
9. The Huddle Leadership Team meets weekly with a Huddle Coach to prepare for Huddle meetings and events in advance.
10. The members of the Leadership Team are all actively participating in competitive sports.
11. The Huddle Coaches are or were coaches for a school sport.
12. There is significant evidence of changed lives in the Huddle.
13. The Huddle uses inspiring/interesting/up-to-date methods of presentation (video, music, DVD, drama, etc.) in Huddle meetings or events.

#### Relationships – Loving Others

1. Athletes and their friends support each other spiritually and hold each other accountable to live out their faith on the field as well as off.
2. Members of the Huddle Leadership Team have received training in leading small groups.
3. The Huddle meets regularly in groups of the appropriate size to facilitate communication and spiritual interaction to apply Biblical truths on and off the field.
4. Members of the Huddle Leadership Team represent the diversity of the teams on their campus (sport, ethnicity, gender and age).
5. Huddle members help to break down walls of discrimination and prejudice by forming relationships with all different types/groups of people in the school.
6. There is a healthy, caring, social interaction with Huddle members outside of the Huddle meetings.
7. There are opportunities for Huddle members to actively care and pray for one another in most Huddle meetings.
8. People on the outside would say that the Huddle is making a significant difference in the school and community.
9. Real-life issues are expressed and addressed from a Biblical perspective in the Huddle meetings or events.
10. Sport experience issues are expressed and addressed from a Biblical perspective in the Huddle meetings or events.

## Who Leads the Huddle?

FCA Huddles that have had the greatest outreach and impact consistently are those Huddles that have emphasized the importance of working together as a Leadership Team. The Leadership Team is key to the success of the Huddle.

Selecting individuals to provide leadership to your Huddle is a very important step. All leaders should live a consistent Christian life and demonstrate leadership abilities. Members of the Leadership Team should represent the gender and ethnic diversity of your school. It's also best to have both male and female Huddle Coaches involved.

The Leadership Team will be required to work together to ensure the Huddle activities are well planned and conducted in a manner that would glorify God. It will be important for your Leadership Team to establish regular planning meetings to prepare for your Huddle.

**The Leadership Team consists of:**

**The Huddle Coach** – selected prior and approved by FCA staff

**Assistant Coaches** – selected by the Huddle Coach

**At Least Four Athlete Leaders** – chosen through a selection process (see page 38). Look at pages 39-41 for the *Leadership Responsibilities* and see pages 47-49 for the FCA Student Leader Application.

If a Huddle meets on school property as a non-curriculum club, the Huddle must be student-led. This does not preclude an athletic coach or interested volunteer from facilitating the student leadership meetings. Most schools require non-curriculum clubs to have a faculty representative.

Adults working with Huddles must take care not to dominate the leadership but to encourage the officers to take charge of the Huddle meeting schedule. It's important to have the Leadership Team working together so your meetings are well organized. The coach or volunteer is there to provide counsel and to maintain order.

## How Big Should My Huddle Ministry Be?

FCA Huddles meetings range from five to 500 members. Huddle Ministry events could be four athletes from a team or something for the entire student body. Despite the differences in size, each Huddle can use the same means to accomplish the same goals.

If your group is small, it can function as a single unit. As your group grows you need to think about becoming a large group made up of many small groups.

To do this, divide your group up for discussion into groups of four. This will give everyone a chance to participate, even though you may have 500 student-athletes.

## How Often Do Huddles Meet?

The answer to this question varies. Some groups meet every week while others meet every other week. Twice a month should be minimum. Emphasis should be placed on meeting consistently. The more sporadic the meeting schedule, the less likely the group will succeed. Plan on meeting on a particular day or night and continue meeting on that day or night for at least a semester. Meeting weekly is best! Publicize your meetings by emphasizing the day or night: Monday – FCA! Timing of outreach events to the athletic community could be one per team per season. Outreaches to all students could be four per year.

## When Do FCA Huddles Meet?

Again the answer is varied. Many meet on campus during club hour. Others meet before school, during lunch or after school, and still others meet in the evening.

The best way to find a meeting time is to survey your local situation. An evening meeting time can provide a relaxed atmosphere with few time barriers. But many Huddles don't have the luxury of meeting at night since the athletes live great distances from each other. Your Huddle meeting time will have to be determined by your local situation.

## Where Do FCA Huddles Meet?

Because of the Equal Access Act of 1984 (see **Playbook**, pages 107-108) and the Supreme Court's validation of this law in 1990, many FCA Huddles still meet on junior, senior high and college campuses. Considering the potential transportation obstacle, this may be the best place for Huddles to meet. Meeting in a home can provide the best group atmosphere. Each Huddle will have to survey its area to see which kind of setting will best accomplish the Huddle goals: fellowship, growth and outreach.

## Who Participates?

As the purpose states, FCA is targeted at reaching athletes and coaches. In order to best reach this group, Huddle participants are to be current or former members of recognized school athletic teams and those who carry an interest in athletics.

FCA should not become an exclusive “club” with restricted membership. However, a key principle in FCA’s strategy for reaching “athletes and coaches” is for the commonality of athletics with those in the group to remain obvious.

## How Do We Get the Word Out?

Publicize your meetings through posters, announcements, school newspapers, bulletin boards, flyers, etc. See pages 189-190 for blank forms. The best way to let students know about Huddle meetings is simply by a personal invitation.

## The Huddle Meeting

In the FCA Huddle Ministry, we have four target audiences: athlete leaders, Huddle members, the school’s athletic community and the remaining students. We have strategies to minister to each of these audiences. The group that meets the most is the Huddle. Here is what that meeting looks like.

### The Welcome

The welcome is an important component of the outreach, as it establishes the atmosphere and makes all feel welcomed.

### The Warm-up

The Warm-up includes activities known as “teambuilders.” These build the team through fellowship with fun activities that make it easy to outreach. (See **FCA Athlete’s Bible**)

The goal of teambuilding is to unite Huddle members together in love and to build them as whole people. This happens as people have fun together, share needs, confess sins and faults, bear each other’s burdens, help others identify and develop their spiritual gifts, encourage each other, listen carefully and intercede in prayer. As a Huddle meets with God together, they draw closer to each other in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12).

As your Huddle grows in teambuilding, barriers will break down between members and openness and trust will grow in their place. It is important to spend time together outside of the weekly Huddle meetings. This will vary from going to get ice cream to going on an FCA retreat as you get to know one another in a variety of circumstances. Prayer partnerships are another link in teambuilding.

In the weekly meetings, the deepness of the teambuilding will vary, depending on what stage your Huddle is in and how long your group has been together. Your first few meetings might be informal times of finding out about each other. Later on these times in teambuilding hopefully will involve deep sharing together.

In planning activities for this component, be careful to use ideas that are appropriate for the stage of growth the group is experiencing. (For example, use self-descriptive activities in the first stage of development.) The following can be used throughout the life of the group.

The early church became a community because they had their salvation experience in common. They continued to grow through a variety of shared experiences, including eating in homes; selling and sharing possessions; and worship (Acts 2:40-47).

## The Workout

The Workout is a time designed to encourage spiritual growth (see **FCA Athlete’s Bible**).

It’s during the Workout that the Word of God is revealed, and it’s very important to offer an environment that encourages growth. Consider the room arrangements and number of individuals working together. When divided into small groups of two to eight, Huddle members have an opportunity to interact comfortably with each other and the Word of God.

Have you ever played on a field with ruts, bare spots and maybe even rocks? How difficult and painful was that experience? A level playing field is so important.

For the person who has grown up going to church and reading the Bible, to look up a verse is no big deal. To a young person who never has had the privilege to be in this environment, this could be a painful experience, and they might check out of the group all together. A simple way to “level the playing field” is to mention the page number when you look up Bible verses – so all can find the Scripture easily.

We also want to level the playing field for the different personalities that might be in your Huddle. Some might love to talk in front of your whole group; for others speaking one syllable sends shivers down their spine. Smaller groups will help level the playing field.

## The Wrap-up

The Wrap-up brings the Huddle back together to demonstrate love for each other through prayer. It also brings the meeting to a close with announcements so members know of upcoming activity.

## Being a Sport's Chaplain

There may be no more costly nor rewarding role in ministry through sport that that of the chaplain. Whether one serves in that role for a few individuals or for a whole team, the opportunities to impact the lives of those in and around the sport are numerous and frequent. The keys to effectiveness in such a role are simple, but most important.

Simply said, there are a few keys to ministry with people of sport and they are outlined briefly below. Chief among those keys is to take a relational approach to this ministry rather than a programmatic approach. Focus on the people more than the methods or strategies. The goal is not just to develop programs or to hold meetings; rather it is to relate to the people of sport closely enough to sense the needs of their hearts and to apply the love of Christ to their lives.

### 1. Focus on the people of sport. Win their trust through serving them.

- ▶ Focus on the coaches and players, not the fans, the media or others.
- ▶ Coaches are key. Invest in their lives and build trust with them.
- ▶ Respond to the athletes who show interest. Follow up with those who ask questions or indicate a desire for spiritual things.
- ▶ Know their names, positions, uniform numbers, home towns and all you can about their backgrounds. Show a personal interest in them and they'll be more open to you and your ministry.
- ▶ Ask good questions about the sport, their roles, their expectations and their goals.
- ▶ Be available to them, even when it's terribly inconvenient. The point of crisis or the inconvenient phone call is often the situation that either wins or loses you their trust and confidence.

### 2. Watch your attitude and don't act like a fan.

- ▶ Respect and value the culture of sport. Study it; learn its history and language. Ask good questions of the coaches and players. Take the same attitude toward the sport as the coaches and players have.
- ▶ Look for opportunities to serve the team and don't seek privileges. If they want to have you attend road games with them, they'll ask you. If they want you to join them on the sidelines, they'll ask you. If they want to outfit you with team gear, they'll ask for your size. Don't seek such privileges. An arrogant, presumptuous attitude will quickly invalidate your ministry.
- ▶ Encourage always and don't become critical. If they want your opinion, they'll ask for it. Maintain a supportive attitude and you'll be a highly valued person. If you are constantly critical or finding fault, you'll soon be marginalized or ignored.
- ▶ Don't talk about religion. Talk about faith in the context of the sport. Help them see what genuine faith is through their sport experience.
- ▶ Don't just react to their flesh, love them from the heart. If we only deal with the behaviors that offend us, we'll never have much of an affect on their hearts. We must look past their occasionally coarse language and possibly offensive style to deal with their hearts.

### 3. Be in the right place at the right time.

- ▶ Be at practice sessions. Lots of people attend the games, very few attend practices. The coaches and athletes know that only those most highly committed to the team are at practice. If you're there, their respect for you will grow quickly.
- ▶ Be there when they lose. Everyone seems to hang around to congratulate the team when they've won a big game. You must be the one to stay late, to console, to encourage and to commiserate with them when they've lost the big game. This builds trust and lets you see their grieving hearts.
- ▶ Be available in times of crisis. The trips to the training room or the emergency room with an injured player build trust and deepen relationships like nothing else. The private meeting with a coach in his office concerning a troubled player is a powerful ministry opportunity. The lunch meeting with an athlete or coach who's looking for counsel as he or she is making a big decision is a life-changing moment. If you're available, you have a ministry. If you're not, you don't.

### 4. Strategies and methods are secondary to the relational emphasis.

- ▶ If you will focus on the relationship building tips listed above, the appropriate strategies and methods will be much more easily seen and implemented.
- ▶ Always ask permission before beginning a ministry initiative. Make a proposal to the head coach for the Bible study, discussion, chapel, event, etc. Doing so honors his position and may keep you from violating a team or athletic association rule. It also further builds his or her trust of you and your ministry.
- ▶ Be sure to adapt ministry methods and tools to the sport's culture. Don't simply drag the people of sport into church culture and expect it to be a good fit. Strive to help those whom you serve to fully integrate their lives in sport with their lives in Christ Jesus.

To effectively serve the people of sport as their chaplain; focus on the people and win their trust through serving them; watch your attitude; be in the right place at the right time; and keep strategies and methods secondary to the relational emphasis.

Sport chaplains have the unique privilege and awesome responsibility to share the love of Christ with a unique people group. The people of sport may be the least served and most overused people of faith in our world. We are often very willing to use them to share their faith (as immature as it may be), but are very guilty of ignoring their unique need for ministry that respects their passion for sport. If you'll prayerfully and faithfully follow these guidelines, you'll be on the road to effective ministry to the hearts of coaches and athletes.

(Submitted by Roger Lipe, Southern Illinois F.C.A.)

## Leadership Team Bible Studies

Leading Team Bibles studies is a great way to minister to your players or teammates. The community that teammates have lends itself to a unique setting for great conversations around the Word of God. FCA is pleased to offer a resource called “Character Counts.” This resource is perfectly designed for Team Bible Studies and is found in FCA’s Campus Ministry kit.

Here are a few thoughts on how to effectively lead these studies.

**Every leader needs to know what the goal is. The leaders of Team Bible studies should keep in mind the following goals that they would like to see in their players lives:**

- ▶ For men and women of sport to have their lives to accurately reflect the Spirit of Christ in all their ways. (Proverbs 3:5-6, Colossians 3:23)
- ▶ To live with a heart of integrity. To live with one’s life in Christ Jesus fully integrated into all facets of life; family, church, athletics, leadership, academics, etc...
- ▶ To live with the understanding that as athletes and coaches, “...**Christ in you, the hope of glory,**” (Colossians 1:27) is as fitting for you as for the minister, priest or pastor.
- ▶ God would be most honored if our lives were consistently committed to Christ at church, in the classroom, at home, on the field of competition and in all areas of life.

### Settings for meetings:

- ▶ **In meeting with athletes for quality time of prayer, study, discussion and fellowship, the setting is best determined by the opportunity you’re afforded.** This may mean a meeting with a team at the practice facility prior to practice or immediately thereafter. It may mean an early morning meeting at a restaurant including breakfast. It may mean a weekly study prior to team meetings. The opportunity with those whose lives you wish to impact determines the where, the when, the how long for your setting. There is plenty of flexibility within the forms listed as models.
- ▶ **As a rule, the best option is nearest the sports experience for the group.** That could mean the right place to meet is at the stadium, arena or practice facility. It may mean meeting in the place where the team has meals together. It could mean the building where the players are housed. Make it as convenient as possible.
- ▶ **It is normally best to arrange chairs in a circle or to meet around a table.** This way the leader can see everyone in the group face to face. This is also the best arrangement for discussion between members of the group. Chairs arranged in rows or classroom style allows for the leader to see everyone, but inhibits discussion between various other members.
- ▶ **It’s often wise to set a finite number of weeks or months for the group to meet together.** This makes for a natural time to adjust details, to change subject matter, to add new people and for some people to gracefully leave the group. The group can then adjust and begin again with new focus, direction and energy.

## Procedures for success:

What are the procedures that should be the core of our meeting together? How do we effectively lead our group to study the Bible and have the Spirit of God impact their lives? The following is a simple list of instructions for leading such a group.

1. **Prepare for the group study with personal study.**
  - ▶ Your preparation with each of the study questions is key to your leadership of the group.
  - ▶ You may have insights or applications beyond those indicated by the study writer.
  - ▶ Pray for the members of the group and take time to personally invite them to the first sessions.
  - ▶ Prepare for the logistics of the meeting room, refreshments (if needed), Bibles, etc...
  - ▶ Think through particular illustrations and applications of the study to the individuals in the group. The more you can apply the scripture to the experience of this team and its sport, the greater will be the impact of the study.
2. **Take time for prayer in some form.**
  - ▶ Share requests aloud and pray for each other in the group.  
*Prayer builds team unity and helps them learn to pray for others.*
3. **Read the text for the study aloud.**
  - ▶ You or someone who can read well aloud should read the text. (Some people don’t read well aloud and are embarrassed when asked to do so.)
4. **Read and discuss the study questions, one at a time.**
  - ▶ Leave time for them to think and express their ideas, tell their stories, share their feelings.
  - ▶ Don’t worry about finishing the list of questions; your objective is to have them interact with each other and the Scripture.
  - ▶ Don’t worry about times of silence, they might be thinking! If the question seems clumsy or confusing, rephrase it or shape it in a way that better fits your group. If it’s helpful, you may offer your ideas or experiences as an example.
  - ▶ Encourage everyone to take part in the discussion and welcome all responses, especially the stories and experiences of the group.
  - ▶ Judge wisely the responses to questions that relate to truth and error with respect to the Scripture. Be ready to correct or affirm such responses.
  - ▶ Look for ways to take the questions to deeper levels of their hearts. The goal is to get to the fourth level and deal with matters of the heart.
    1. **Personal experience.** These questions invite the group to share experiences they’ve had related to the themes in the text. These also invite everyone to participate and lead to later applications of scriptural principles.

2. **Observation of text.** These are mostly questions that are easily answered simply by observing the material in the text. These questions welcome everyone's participation and invite all into the discussion.
3. **Interpretation and application.** The principles seen in the scripture will lead the group to grasp the moral implications and personal applications of the text. They are now wrestling with God's will for them as Christian people of sport.
4. **Matters of the heart.** Some questions will probe deeply enough to challenge the members about their identity in Christ. They'll be confronted with their tendency toward performance rather than unconditional acceptance in Christ Jesus. *The motives and attitudes of the heart are uncovered by these probing questions.*
  - ▶ **It is the role of the leader to ask the questions, to facilitate discussion and to ask follow up questions at the appropriate levels.** Doing these things will result in your group being deeply impacted by the Spirit of God in all areas of life.

### Evaluation of results:

How do we know if we're doing well or if we're doing poorly? How can we measure our effectiveness? There are a few things that are good indicators of our effectiveness in studies like this.

- ▶ **Consistency.** If the participants are consistently attending, are bringing their Bibles, are participating enthusiastically in the discussions, you're doing well.
- ▶ **Faithfulness.** If you can see a growing faithfulness to Christ in the group members' behavior, on and off the field of competition. If their lives become more reflective of Jesus' character, day to day, you're doing very well.
- ▶ **Integrity of heart.** If you see the participants growing more Christ-like in their on and off-field behavior, if their lives as Christians and lives as people of sport are beginning to overlap, then to become one...you're watching God at work!

### When and how to begin?

- ▶ Pray and watch for an opportunity.
- ▶ Personally recruit those who should be at the center of the group and pray. Ideally these would be coaches or players from the team. There will be a greater ownership of the group this way among the team and coaches.
- ▶ Arrange the details for time, day, location, duration, and subject matter and pray.
- ▶ Set the details for the first meeting and pray.
- ▶ Prepare for and execute the first meeting and pray.
- ▶ Continue the meetings, recruit, nurture, love and pray.

**May your experience be one of great joy and excitement as you help men and women of sport form hearts of integrity in relationship with Christ Jesus our Lord.**

(Submitted by Roger Lipe, Southern Illinois F.C.A.)

## Huddle Leader Training on the P.I.T. Crew

### Come/Go Strategies

#### Training Session:

As Jesus was leaving the earth, He gave those looking on some important instructions found in Matthew 28:19: "Go and make disciples of all nations..." His instructions were not just to the few but to all. We are called in Acts 1:8 to be His witnesses, "You will be my witnesses..." The truth to remember is that you don't have to be an "evangelist" or a preacher, but we are instructed to be evangelistic – seeking opportunities to share or demonstrate the Good News of Jesus on your campus and on your team.

Part of FCA's Mission Statement is to "Present..." To "Present" means that we are about "Reaching Others with Christ." There are two important strategies in helping you and your Huddle carry out God's purpose of Presenting – "Come" and "Go." An effective Huddle will have both "Come" and "Go" strategies. A leader models a Presenting (Evangelistic) lifestyle.

**COME:** This strategy is a meeting/program/event designed for others to come and hear/see/experience the story of Jesus.

**GO:** Going is a lifestyle of relating to others your story of what Christ has done and who He is in your life.



### The FCA Mission

“To PRESENT to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the CHALLENGE and ADVENTURE of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their RELATIONSHIPS and in the fellowship of the Church.”

**P.I.T. Crew** is an incredible tool for your team, Huddle and life. **P.I.T. Crew** is a group of people on your team or in your Huddle that are committed to seeing others discover faith in Christ. The **P.I.T. Crew** incorporates three key elements into their efforts to present the Gospel. The three key elements of **P.I.T. Crew** are to **Pray** – for those who do not know Christ as Savior and Lord; **Invite** – them to a meeting/program/event where faith in Christ is presented; and **Tell** – them Christ’s story and your story. **P.I.T.** is not a magic formula, but a tool that you can use to share Christ with others.

Did you know there was a **P.I.T. Crew** in the New Testament? That’s right – the early New Testament believers saw God do incredible things around them:

- ▶ They met together to **Pray**
- ▶ They would **Invite** others to places where the truths of Jesus Christ were taught
- ▶ They were able to **Tell** others what Christ had done in their lives

Just as athletes are constantly reminded to practice and master the basic skills of their sport, we are inviting you to use this simple game plan to see God do incredible things on your team and on your campus.

### Pray

As a **P.I.T. Crew** member, you must be committed to praying once a week with others on your team and/or in your FCA Huddle specifically for those who need to find faith in Christ. Make a list of 10 people that you/or your **P.I.T. Crew** knows who do not have a faith in Christ. Then pray for them on a regular basis personally and with your team and/or Huddle **P.I.T. Crew**.

**I commit to praying for the following people:**


### Invite

This is a “Come” strategy. You must look for opportunities to invite those on your **P-ray** list to meetings/programs/events where you know information about faith in Christ will be presented. The meetings/programs/events could include your local FCA Huddle meeting, area-wide FCA events, FCA Camps, Christian concerts, youth group meetings, church, etc. Think of some meetings/programs/events to **I-Invite** those on your **P-ray** list. Your team or Huddle could also organize an event to **I-Invite** those on your **P-ray** list.

Write a specific meeting/program/event by each name on your **P-ray** list that you could **I-Invite** them to. Try to think of meetings/programs/events that would be the best setting for each person to hear Christ’s story – what faith in Christ is all about.

**P.I.T. Crew I-Invite list**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Event</b>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____

### Tell

This is a “Go” strategy. You must be prepared to tell others what your life was like before you had a personal relationship with Christ, how you came to a personal faith in Christ and what Christ means to you now. Be ready to share Christ’s story and your story of faith in Christ.

## Your Story – FCA Testimony Helps

Sharing your story, how you came to know Christ and live for Him, is an incredible opportunity. Take this opportunity every chance that you get. Here are some tips for sharing your story.

### Your story/testimony should include:

The steps of salvation

- ▶ Recognition of your need for Christ
- ▶ Turning away from your sinfulness
- ▶ Accepting Christ's forgiveness
- ▶ Receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- ▶ Living your life to glorify Him

Use scripture to illustrate and document what has happened in your life.

Share the basics of the Gospel including:

- ▶ Man's sinfulness, which separates us from God. Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:2
- ▶ The life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the payment (atonement) for man's sins. Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
- ▶ Through faith in Jesus, we have "new life" as outlined in 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 10:9,13.
- ▶ Share about your "new life" in Christ. Tell about the changes Christ has brought in your life and what He means to you. John 5:24
- ▶ A good outline to follow is found in FCA's **More Than Winning** tract.

Conclude with the following

- ▶ Review the meaning of salvation. Encourage others to come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- ▶ Close with a prayer of acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, so that others may have the opportunity to know Jesus Christ.

Use the following page to develop your personal testimony.

## Personal Testimony Guidelines

The FCA, as a cross-denominational ministry, provides many opportunities for staff and volunteers to communicate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. A testimony is the most common format provided. The goal of a testimony is to introduce others to Jesus Christ. FCA is defined as a spiritually nurturing ministry; sharing Christ, not only for conversion of sinners, but also for the growth of believers in their daily walk in obedience to Christ. The goal, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is to move people either toward the point of conversion at the cross or beyond the cross into maturing obedience in Christ.

An outline to follow in building your testimony should include:

1. How you came to know Christ

- ▶ Identify the specific steps of salvation:
  - ▶ Recognition of the need for Christ in your life.
  - ▶ Turning away from the sinfulness of your life.
  - ▶ Accepting Christ's forgiveness for your sin.
  - ▶ Receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- ▶ Scripture will be helpful to illustrate and document what has happened in your life.

2. Share the basics of the Gospel including:

- ▶ Man's sinfulness which separates us from God.
- ▶ The life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the payment (atonement) for man's sins.
- ▶ Through faith in Jesus we are redeemed into "new life" as outlined in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. (FCA's **More Than Winning** gospel tract provides you a good outline to follow.)
- ▶ Your "new life" in Christ. Speak of the changes Christ has brought in your life...what He means to you...things that will cause others to want to know Him as well. Note: Be real. Include specific times of growth.

3. Conclude by accomplishing three things:

- ▶ Wrap up with a closing illustration to capture the theme of your testimony.
- ▶ Review the meaning of salvation and, if appropriate, issue a call to commitment.
- ▶ Close in prayer.

Review with the coordinator of your program if it is appropriate to lead in a prayer of acceptance, so the members of the audience to whom the Holy Spirit has spoken may pray silently to commit their lives to Christ by claiming His forgiveness of their sin and receive His gift of eternal life.

## Personal Testimony Worksheet

### How I came to know the Lord...

### How I understood the basics of the Gospel...

### In Closing...

## Joining the FCA P.I.T. Crew

That's what it means to be on the **P.I.T. Crew**. You and the others on your team and in your Huddle can join a worldwide evangelism movement of "Reaching Others with Christ." This is an incredible opportunity!

### There are two ways to join FCA's P.I.T. Crew:

#### 1. Just Do It!

Get together with others on your team or in your Huddle to form a **P.I.T. Crew**. Weekly, **P**-ray that God will move in the lives of those who need to find faith in Christ. Look for opportunities to **I**-nvite them to Christian meetings/programs/events and be ready to **T**-ell them what Christ means in your life. Keep a record of your prayers and how God answers them.

#### 2. Join the FCA P.I.T. Crew Network



Go to [www.fca.org](http://www.fca.org) and join the FCA **P.I.T. Crew Network**. By joining the **P.I.T. Crew Network** you will have an opportunity to fill out a **P.I.T. Crew Log**. This will help you and your Team and/or Huddle keep a running online **P.I.T. Crew journal**. Also, by joining the **P.I.T. Crew Network**, you will receive the following:

- ▶ Weekly e-mail reminders to **P**-ray, **I**-nvite and **T**-ell.
- ▶ E-mailed "Green Flags" – prayer alerts and creative prayer ideas to get your **P.I.T. Crew** going on your team and in your Huddle.
- ▶ Your local FCA staff will be alerted that you are an official **P.I.T. Crew** member.
- ▶ Up-to-date news of how God is moving in **P.I.T. Crews** on sports teams and on campuses across America.

Begin your **P.I.T. Crew** commitment now! Spend some time in prayer for those on your list. Ask God to continue placing people in your life to include on your **P**-ray list; for opportunities to **I**-nvite those that you are praying for to places or events where faith in Christ is being shared; and for the opportunity to **T**-ell them about your faith in Christ.