

Detached Youth Sports Ministry



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Overview

Teenagers in general tend to be the hardest age to reach to share the gospel. Jesus led by example to show us one strategy in which to go about it – this is to go to out to where youth are. He commanded us: ‘Therefore GO and make disciples of all nations.’ Matthew 28:19-20

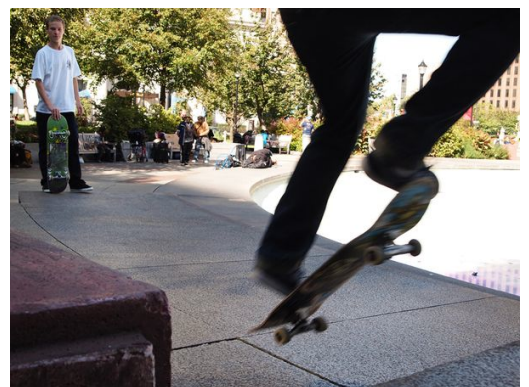
Detached sports ministry refers to almost ‘free-lance’ sports ministry that involves engaging with teenagers where they hang out in the community joining in or inviting them to join in with casual sports related activities (eg basketball hoop shooting, football kick around, skate boarding etc).

Goals

To build effective and meaningful relationships with people through making contact with them, engaging with them in the community through sports activities. Continued contact will build mutual trust, respect and understanding enabling you to gain opportunities to support, disciple and mentor youth, to share the Gospel and to share Christ in love, action and words. Inevitably to help bridge gaps in their understanding of Christianity and to bring them to salvation.

Imagine...

The impact of detached sports ministry (when done effectively) could have a huge impact through taking the gospel to the youth out in the community. By connecting with youth, building relationships and showing them Christ’s love can have a significant effect on their whole lives emotionally and socially.



Target audience

Youth easily accessible in the community.

What can it achieve?

Detached sports ministry can fill the gap in reaching teens where other methods such as putting on events that may not be effective in attracting teenagers to come and hear the gospel. It enables sports missionaries to be in a position to contact teenagers and to share the Gospel with them.



Key principles

1. Pray before going out that God would open doors to engage with youth
2. Find out popular spots where youth hang out in your area
3. Go out with another person and begin engaging in a 'relevant' and attractive activity to youth
4. Begin to build relationships with youth
5. Continue praying and gaining prayer (from your church & sports ministry team) as you spend time with youth
6. Gaining opportunities to support, disciple and mentor them
7. Make the most of any opportunity to share the Gospel and to share Christ in love, action and words

Where

Local parks, skate parks, any prominent areas where teenagers hang out.

Stories

“One church youth leader connected to our Community Sports Team cycles or drives around areas of our city to pray and identify where young people hang out and play basketball. He then goes there regularly to join in and play casually and build relationships seeking to share the love and Word of God.”

Supporting resources

This approach also requires few workers and costs almost nothing financially as long as you have a ball!

Proclamation

The proclaiming of the Gospel in detached 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, as you go out into the community to hang out with youth, to be living in a way that honours God and reflecting His love and grace to the youth and to make the most of any opportunity to share the Gospel in conversations.

In 1 Peter 3:15 it says you should:

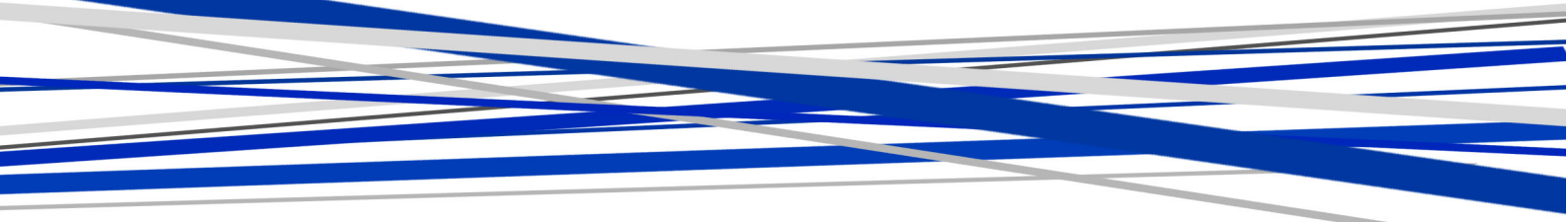
“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”



In every situation, Jesus was able to relate ie come down to the level where people were at to share with them the Gospel. Whether it was indirectly through an issue of the heart or straight to the point. The key thing is He knew WHO He was talking to and that must be the essential thing for us when we do detached youth sports ministry.

Paul sums this up by saying:

“Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have



voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, non-religious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whatever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!" 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (MSG)

Discipleship

A disciple is a learner of Jesus so youth that are not yet believers can still be disciples and get disciplined. All sports ministry should have a discipleship focus however the individual being disciplined should dictate what 'discipleship' looks like ie youth will require different discipleship to adults. Our job as sports missionaries "going out" into our communities to build relationships with youth should be to make disciples by spending time with the youth witnessing to them through the way you live your life allowing them to learn more about Christ as you demonstrate His love and grace and when opportunities come up to talk about your faith 'discipling' them more towards knowing Christ and coming to salvation.

One process of discipleship is through the relationships built during detached ministry is that you would also be able to invite youth to outreach events whether sports ministry events or discipleship programs that they can come and hear more of the Gospel proclaimed and be further disciplined.

There are various youth discipleship programs that exist and which different churches or ministries are running, it is useful to have knowledge of what is going in the different churches so if the chance arises you can invite young people along to having made a commitment or to learn more about the Gospel and to bridge them to a local church.

WSM also run a youth specific, sports discipleship program called Youth Sports Leadership Development (YSLD), which develops young people's skills, character, faith and mission. For more information including curriculums see our YSLD manual.

www.worldsportministries.com/resources



Next steps

1. Pray before anything. Pray for God's guidance as to where to engage with them and for open hearts and minds. Seek prayer cover from your church and consider forming a sports ministry team to be praying for you and supporting you. (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/
2. For best practice consider getting others to join you when you go out to reach youth whether from church or sports ministry team.
3. Research and identifying prominent spots where youth hang around in the local area.
4. Familiarise yourself with 'good practice for detached ministry' (contact us for more information).
5. Go out and join in or invite youth to join in with the casual sports related activity (eg basketball hoop shooting, football kick around, skate boarding etc).
6. Engage in conversations, building relationships, demonstrating Christ's love and share the gospel when opportunities arise.
7. Disciple young people so they can learn more about Christ and in the right timing to invite them to other events and to discipleship programs and eventually get bridged to the local church.

For more information and advice on connecting with teenagers where they are, contact us directly:

teenagers@worldsportministries.com

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

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 youth 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 youth drawing them closer to Jesus Christ and being able to disciple them.

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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