

Reaching the world of
sport for Christ in your
local area through your
local church

This is a guide to forming committed groups of sports people in churches who are intentional in sharing life and the gospel in their clubs and teams.

This is about missional community - encouraging and equipping each other to Pray, Play, Say (PPS) together as local churches.

The four headlines help outline the pattern of reaching the world of sport for Christ; with the bullet points being examples of how to do this.

FIND Christians in sport

- Ask your church leader if you can work towards identifying sports people in your church, who are playing in clubs and teams, to help them be intentional in their evangelism.
- If you have a student worker or youth leader ask if they know of any students or young people playing club sport.
- Email info@christiansinsport.org.uk to request a custom-made survey to help identify sports players in your church (see christiansinsport.org.uk/churchsurvey for an example) and put a notice in the church news sheet/email.
- A Facebook group can help create identity, unity and enable people to add others they know of.

CAST vision

- To sports people: gather sports people together within your church (e.g. 20 minutes before a church service).
- To the rest of the church: help them see the intentionality behind this strategy and the people group of sport. Continue to appreciate that some may have negative views about sport and a Christian's place within it.
- Start with Matthew 28v18-20 – we're called to *go* and make disciples of all nations and this includes the people group who play sport in local clubs and team. Watch 'Let's Go' and 'Born to Play' videos on youtube.com/christiansinsportUK
- Analyse the local sports scene (speak to Sarah at the Christians in Sport office for assistance); comparing how many clubs and teams there are with how many Christian sports players are in your church. (cf. Matthew 9v38 - harvest is plentiful but workers are few).
- Paint a picture of the unique opportunities and challenges in the world of sport.
- Keep casting vision within the church for transparency and backing.

PRAY regularly together

- Organise a regular prayer meeting for sports people (e.g. once a month before/after a church service). Decide what works best in your context and church calendar!
- Pray for sports friends by name and challenge each other with specific next actions each week/month (e.g. tell a teammate you haven't told before that you are a Christian, share the message of last Sunday's sermon, share your testimony, invite them to an event, ask them to read the Bible 1-1 etc.).

PLAN and RUN PPS training and outreach events

- We want to make disciples in the world of sport and recognise that this is never done individually but always in relationships. Therefore training together and bringing friends into the Christian community, through outreach events and sharing life, is what we'd love to see.
- Think about how regular (e.g. termly/bi-annual) specific PPS training will help keep the focus on glorifying God in your sport and reaching lost sports people. Bible studies or training material to encourage and equip one another to PPS can be found on the Christians in Sport website and PrayPlaySay.com.
- Think through whether there is scope to join with other churches across the city/region to plan and run training events and guest events together?
- We want to be on the front foot in helping the friends we play sport with come face to face with Jesus in time through His word. Can you create a culture where reading the Bible 1-1 with friends in clubs and teams is the norm in the process of getting them along to church and being discipled? The culture change starts with you.
- Think about how specific sports outreach events could help support the personal witness of Christians in sport (e.g. Sports Quiz, Dinner, Night of Champions for young people etc) - see sportsmissionpack.co.uk. These events are great for both clearly proclaiming the good news and bringing friends into your church.

Useful Links

Christians in Sport homepage (christiansinsport.org.uk): Resources to support one another as sportspeople and engage with others in your clubs and teams – accessible from the 'Churches' drop-down menu.

PrayPlaySay.com: (prayplaysay.com): A series of video-based Bible studies for sportspeople.

ReadySetGO website (ReadySetGo.ec): A great toolkit containing different resources to help engage your local community using sport.



Find us on social media by searching for 'Christians in Sport'

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Registered Charity number for England and Wales: 1086570

Registered Charity number for Scotland: SCO45299

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