

# ISTROUMASPORTS

## Baseball + Softball Gospel Presentation Activity

### INTRODUCTION

- This is only for 11U/14U Boys & 13U Girls.
- Coaches for younger teams are welcome to present the gospel, but are not required.
- Spend 10-15 minutes of practice using this guide: play a game and present the gospel.
- We hope this is a time for our players and coaches to slow down and to see where God is in their lives. We believe that God wants to redeem us back to Himself and that He uses sports as part of the process.
- We want to offer the opportunity for our players to receive a free gift from God. In the Bible, John 3:16 says, *“God loves the world so much that He gave His only Son to take our place for our sins”*.
- Romans 3:23 says, *“we all sin and fall short of God’s glory”*. It doesn’t matter how hard we try, we can never be good enough, strong enough or fast enough to eliminate our sins.

### GAME SETUP

- The goal is to show players that while they may be good, and even better than the others, they still are not perfect. Our imperfection should result in a dependency on God.
- Players will compete as teams in a throwing game called Hit the Helmet.  
<https://youtu.be/txk5TNzcrvw>
  - Can be done in the outfield. Please don’t stick dollar bills in the helmets.
- Split players into two teams and give each team a few balls. Use a cone for starting points.
- You can place one helmet per team on the ground or on a tee/bucket for added difficulty.

### GAME INSTRUCTIONS

- One player per team will throw at the helmet. Rotate after throwing.
- You can have one player far behind the helmet to retrieve balls or throwers can retrieve.
- Older teams can throw the ball back to the line – set up someone to catch.
- Make sure the next players don’t throw until the retriever is out of the way.
- 1 point: ball rolls into helmet. 3 points: direct hit. Fix the helmet after each hit.
- Tell teams you are wanting perfection. Their goal is for every player to hit the helmet without missing as quickly as possible.
- Use proper form. No bowling or dart throws.
- Give teams a few minutes to allow for multiple attempts per player. Tally up points.
- Can play again from a further distance.

## DEBRIEF

- Gather your players for the debrief after the game.
- Did you try your hardest? What could your team have done to score more points?
- Did you have a perfect run, or did you make some mistakes?
- What was the final score?
- While one team did better than the other, they still did not reach the goal of what we were asking. We asked for teams to make no mistakes.
- Let's think about what God requires of us. He requires us to be perfect. Not to be good or better than others. Perfect.
- However, because of sin (*disobedience towards God*) in our life, we are imperfect. We make mistakes even when we try hard not to.
- Only one perfect man walked this world: Jesus Christ, God's son.
- Jesus gave himself up on the cross so that we can reach God's standard of perfection. This isn't because of anything we have or could do, but only because of what Jesus has done for us. God forgave us; gives us grace and mercy because of what Jesus did for our perfection.
- Our gifts, talents, abilities, and hard work are not good enough to reach God's goal of perfection. God's goal for us is only reached when we follow Jesus Christ as our Savior.
- Salvation is a three-part process:
  - Admit that you are a sinner and are imperfect.
  - Believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins.
  - Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior.
- Jesus desires to be over our lives and for us to trust in Him.

*If you would like a more detailed presentation of the gospel, please view our Gospel Presentation document in the Coach Manual.*

## FINISH WELL

- You will receive cards in a Ziplock bag from staff.
- Hand out these cards to each player after practice. Tell them to give these to their parents.
- These cards explain that you presented the gospel to players and gives instructions to parents if they have further questions or if the player decides to follow Jesus Christ.
- Ask players before leaving if they would like to ask questions or discuss further. You can either ask players to raise their hands while still in a group or individually while dismissing for practice.
  - Give these names to Nathan Strong to follow up with families.