

ISTROUMASPORTS

Basketball

Gospel Presentation Activity

INTRODUCTION

- This is for 11U/14U Boys & 13U Girls.
- Coaches for younger teams are welcome to present the gospel, but are not required to.
- 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 spot shooting: https://youtu.be/iNuoSO_4r5I?t=135 (variation of #4 – Basketball Blitz)
- Players will use dribbling, shooting, rebounding, and passing skills.
- Split players into two teams, line them up near midcourt, and give each team one ball. Use a cone for starting points of each line so players don’t scoot up while waiting.
- Spread out the rest of your cones around the basket: good balance of short, mid, and long range (distance can vary for each age)

GAME INSTRUCTIONS

- First players for both teams will dribble to any cone of their choosing and shoot.
- The shooter will follow their shot, rebound, pivot, and pass to the next teammate in line without dribbling. Go to the back of your team’s line.
- Players who made their shot will grab the cone where they shot at after they pass to their teammate. Stack cones up at your starting points. Each cone (made shot) is 1 point.
- The next player in line can go once they receive the pass.
- Coaches can play light defense, if desired, to force a player to make a dribble move to an uncontested cone
- Tell teams you are wanting perfection: perfect shots, perfect passes, perfect rebounds, etc. Their goal is to collect all cones without missing a shot within a few minutes.
- The game is over after all cones have been collected by teams. Tally up points. Keep track of time and end the game early if teams are struggling to make the last few shots.

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, who should 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.