

BUILDING HUDDLES





**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN ATHLETES**

Welcome to Team FCA! The Fellowship of Christian Athletes exists to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes and He's using you to bring this vision to life. We want to thank you for stepping out in faith to make disciples who make disciples. You're a part of a larger family across the Pacific Northwest (coaches, athletes, parents, teachers, church members, and many more) giving their time, talent and treasure to share the good news of Jesus Christ and inviting others to follow you as you follow Him. We are praying for you and excited for what God is going to do in your heart as He works through you. Let us know if you need anything throughout this journey, we're thankful for you and your "yes" to making disciples through FCA!

Your Team,

Pacific Northwest FCA

Ryan Johnston

PNW FCA Regional Vice President

PHASE 1



THE VISION

VISION

TO SEE THE WORLD TRANSFORMED
BY JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE
INFLUENCE OF COACHES AND
ATHLETES

MISSION

TO LEAD EVERY COACH AND
ATHLETE INTO A GROWING
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS
CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

STRATEGY

ENGAGE
EQUIP
EMPOWER

THE WIN

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



PHASE 1

WHAT IS A HUDDLE?

A Huddle is a ministry program where two or more coaches or athletes meet on a regular basis to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. We want to empower leaders to create an environment in the sports community where the Gospel is made known and lived out through intentional conversations. Our prayer is that these environments will help FCA coaches, athletes, and volunteers make disciples who make disciples.

WHERE DO HUDDLES EXIST?

Anywhere coaches and athletes are! On the field, at the track, on the mountain, in the pool ... wherever coaches and athletes are, we believe Huddles can exist to help those coaches and athletes grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. Many are hosted before or after practices, before games or competitions, and on school campuses before school or at lunch.

WHY SHOULD YOU START A HUDDLE?

We believe Jesus called every one of his followers to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). If you have a passion for sports and want to help coaches and athletes grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and His church, then starting a Huddle could be a great next step for you! We ask our Huddle Leaders to step into our coaches and athletes context, and invite them to follow you as you follow Jesus. We also want you to equip them with a vision for how they can make disciples, and empower them to go do just that! Disciples making disciples is the win of FCA, and a Huddle is just one way you can do that.

WHAT DO WE DISCIPLE COACHES AND ATHLETES IN?

We want to disciple our coaches and athletes in the words and the way of Jesus. This why we look to God's Word at every Huddle. This is also why we created the E3 Discipleship Playbook, to help you consider the principles and patterns of Jesus as He made disciples so that you can do what He did. FCA offers a variety of resources to help you on this journey at our website (fca.org). Whether you're studying a topic, diving into a specific book of the Bible, or teaching your coaches and athletes how to pray, the goal is that coaches and athletes would leave Huddle thinking on Jesus, His Word, and how to live this new life in Him.



WHERE SHOULD I START?

Where should I start?

1. Engage God First – ask the Lord what the right next step for you is. Who are the coaches and/or athletes you want to serve or build relationship with? Where are they at in their faith journey? How much time do you have to offer coaches/athletes who communicate interest? Who else will God bring to help you lead?
2. Complete the Ministry Leader Application (leaders 14 yrs or older at www.mla.fca.org) or the Young Athlete Leader Application (leaders 11-13 yrs old on local FCA website - ask staff for link).
3. Complete our E3 Overview course at www.fca.org/e3. E3 is the framework for how we follow Jesus and make disciples at FCA.
4. Once you complete the Ministry Leader Application/Young Athlete Leader Application and the E3 Overview course, contact your local FCA staff member. Share with them how you want to be involved in FCA and the coach/athlete community you feel led to serve.

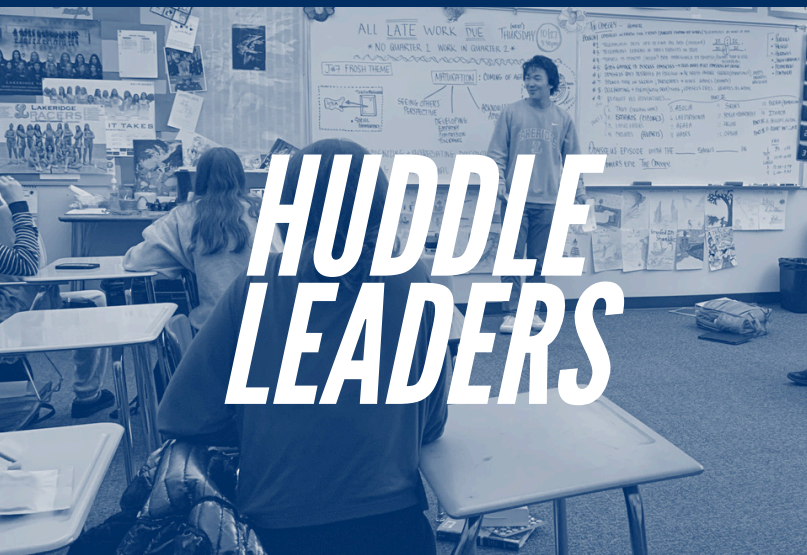
Our team will listen and help you take the next steps to build healthy FCA ministry!

PHASE 2



BUILDING THE STARTING TEAM

*Because the win of FCA is disciples making disciples,
we want to build FCA Huddles in a way that fosters sustainable, long term discipleship.
To do that, we've identified key roles that every Huddle needs.*



**HUDDLE
LEADERS**



**CHURCH
PARTNERS**



**PRAYER
TEAM**



**FCA
STAFF**

ON CAMPUS ATHLETE HUDDLES ONLY: A CAMPUS ADVISOR



PHASE 2

HUDDLE LEADERS

Coaches, athletes, or volunteers who want to disciple coaches/athletes through an FCA Huddle.

CHURCH PARTNERS

Churches who help you care for coaches and/or athletes in the Huddle by providing volunteers to disciple, space for Huddle meetings, resources for food or Bibles, etc... These are also local churches we will encourage coaches and athletes to get engaged with.

PRAYER TEAM

A small group of people committed to regularly praying for your Huddle (parents, spouses, church members, etc...)

ON CAMPUS ADVISOR (FOR ON-CAMPUS ATHLETE HUDDLES ONLY)*

A campus advisor (ideally a coach but can be any believing or supportive teacher) who will serve as a liaison between FCA and the school administration when Huddles apply as official school clubs

FCA STAFF

A local or regional FCA staff member to offer training and support as you make disciples through this Huddle





***ATHLETE
HUDDLE LEADER***



***VOLUNTEER
HUDDLE LEADER***



***COACH
HUDDLE LEADER***



ATHLETE HUDDLE LEADER

WHAT IS AN ATHLETE HUDDLE LEADER?

An athlete Huddle leader is an athlete of any age who wants to disciple other athletes through an FCA Huddle.

WHAT IS AN ATHLETE HUDDLE?

A Huddle is a ministry program where two or more athletes meet on a regular basis to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. The win of a Huddle is to empower athletes to create an environment in the sports community where the Gospel is made known and lived out through intentional conversations.

EXPECTATIONS OF A HUDDLE LEADER

1. Complete a Ministry Leader Application (14 yrs or older, www.mla.fca.org) or Young Athlete Leader Application with FCA (ask local staff member for link)
2. Complete E3 Overview training online (www.fca.org/e3) or in person
3. Identify your Starting team (referenced in Phase 2 – ideally you will have 2+ Huddle Leaders)
4. Regularly lead Huddle meetings and share leadership responsibilities with other Huddle leaders by:
 - a. Opening and closing in prayer
 - b. Leading an ice breaker game or conversation questions
 - c. Leading a message, guiding a study, finding a guest speaker, or hosting a serve project
 - d. Leading a small group through conversation questions to discuss the topic.
 - e. Offering a challenge to the Huddle
 - f. Regularly pray for those attending and touch base with them as appropriate
5. Meet once a month for a Leadership Huddle where you will grow in your walk with Jesus and plan future FCA meetings.**

**In order to foster discipleship and empowerment, every athlete Huddle Leader will also be a part of a once monthly Leadership Huddle led by an adult coach/volunteer or FCA staff member. These adult Huddle Leaders will disciple you in God's Word and help you plan future FCA meetings/lessons.



VOLUNTEER HUDDLE LEADER

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER HUDDLE LEADER?

A volunteer Huddle Leader is a man or woman from the local church who wants to disciple coaches or athletes through an FCA Huddle.

WHAT IS A HUDDLE?

A Huddle is a ministry program where two or more athletes or coaches meet on a regular basis to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. The win of a Huddle is to empower athletes or coaches to create an environment in the sports community where the Gospel is made known and lived out through intentional conversations. Volunteers can lead a Huddle for coaches or for athletes depending on how the Lord leads them.

EXPECTATIONS OF A VOLUNTEER HUDDLE LEADER

1. Complete a Ministry Leader Application (www.mla.fca.org)
2. Complete E3 Overview training online (www.fca.org/e3) or in person
3. Identify your Starting team (referenced in Phase 2 – ideally you will have 2+ Huddle Leaders)
4. Regularly lead Huddle meetings and share leadership responsibilities with other Huddle leaders by:
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 - c. Leading a message, guiding a study, finding a guest speaker, or hosting a serve project
 - d. Leading a small group through conversation questions to discuss the topic.
 - e. Offering a challenge to the Huddle
 - f. Regularly pray for those attending and touch base with them as appropriate
5. Meet regularly with your Starting Team to encourage one another, pray, and plan future FCA meetings.



COACH HUDDLE LEADER

WHAT IS A COACH HUDDLE LEADER?

A coach Huddle Leader is a coach of any sport who wants to disciple other coaches or athletes through an FCA Huddle.

WHAT IS A HUDDLE?

A Huddle is a ministry program where two or more athletes or coaches meet on a regular basis to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. The win of a Huddle is to empower athletes or coaches to create an environment in the sports community where the Gospel is made known and lived out through intentional conversations. Volunteers can lead a Huddle for coaches or for athletes depending on how the Lord leads them.

EXPECTATIONS OF A COACH HUDDLE LEADER

1. Complete a Ministry Leader Application (www.mla.fca.org)
2. Complete E3 Overview training online (www.fca.org/e3) or in person
3. Identify your Starting team (referenced in Phase 2 – ideally you will have 2+ Huddle Leaders)
4. Regularly lead Huddle meetings and share leadership responsibilities with other Huddle leaders by:
 - a. Opening and closing in prayer
 - b. Leading an ice breaker game or conversation questions
 - c. Leading a message, guiding a study, finding a guest speaker, or hosting a serve project
 - d. Leading a small group through conversation questions to discuss the topic.
 - e. Offering a challenge to the Huddle
 - f. Regularly pray for those attending and touch base with them as appropriate
5. Meet regularly with your Starting Team to encourage one another, pray, and plan future FCA meetings.

Note: if you are a teacher-coach at a public school, there are no limits for starting a Huddle for other coaches but there are limits to how you can lead a Huddle for athletes on campus. Please connect with your local administration and FCA staff to learn those expectations.

TYPES OF HUDDLES

Multi-Sport Huddle

Huddles that gather coaches or athletes from a variety of sports teams

Team Huddle

Huddles that gather coaches or athletes from a specific team

Gender Specific Huddle

Huddles that gather only male or only female coaches or athletes

Sport Specific Huddle

Huddles that gather individual athletes or coaches from the same sport

Leadership Huddle

Huddles for Huddle Leaders or potential Huddle Leaders focused on discipleship, leadership, and planning any Huddles these leaders lead



CHURCH PARTNER

WHAT IS A CHURCH PARTNER?

Church partners are a central part of our mission. We want to lead coaches and athletes into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ AND HIS CHURCH. We want to mobilize members of the local church to make disciples of coaches and athletes on and off the field. And we want our coaches and athletes to find local church families that they can worship with. These are churches that will help you create the Huddle, care for the coaches and athletes, and help them grow in relationship with Jesus and the local church family.

HOW CAN A CHURCH PARTNER WITH AN FCA HUDDLE?

1. Pray for local FCA staff, volunteers, coaches, and athletes.
2. Identify men and women in their church family who want to make disciples of coaches and athletes. FCA will train them!
3. Serve as a church family for FCA athletes and coaches
4. Host FCA Huddles and events in their facility
5. Provide resources for FCA Bibles and study books
6. Provide food for the Huddle



PRAYER TEAM

WHAT IS A PRAYER TEAM?

These men and women commit to regularly praying for the Huddle and all the coaches and athletes involved. They can gather corporately as a group or pray individually.

WHAT DOES BEING A PART OF A PRAYER LOOK LIKE?

1. Know the names of the Huddle leaders in that Huddle
2. Receive specific prayer requests from FCA staff/Huddle Leaders
for the Huddle as frequently as decided.
3. Pray for these leaders by name and for their specific requests
regularly





CAMPUS ADVISOR

WHAT IS A CAMPUS ADVISOR?

Most athlete Huddles on public school campuses need to be led by athlete Huddle leaders and established as an official school club through the school's specific process. Most schools require clubs to have a staff member oversee club activity as an advisor. This could be a believing coach who teaches in the building, a staff member who is a believer, or someone who is supportive of FCA.

*Because On Campus Coach Huddles are not school clubs and are voluntary adult gatherings, generally they do not need an advisor or to go through a club process.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE AN ADVISOR?

1. Understand your school's rules for clubs and make sure FCA is in alignment
2. Help athlete leaders understand what opportunities or resources they have access to as an official school club
3. Be present at every FCA Huddle and on campus event
4. Create a welcoming environment in your classroom where athletes feel safe
5. If appropriate, host a leadership Huddle off campus once a month or regularly where you will disciple them and help them plan future Huddles
6. Pray for your athlete Huddle leaders and the athletes attending Huddle

PHASE 3



THE HUDDLE

Engage



Equip

Empower

The E3 framework is three phrases and 12 principles we use to describe what Jesus did in His earthly ministry! We build our Huddles using the E3 framework because we want to build ministry the way Jesus did.



PHASE 3

You're probably wondering, "what is a Huddle supposed to look like?"

Here's a breakdown of what a healthy could look like:

ENGAGE

The engage portion of a huddle is when you welcome coaches or athletes in and create space to build relationship through food, questions, and/or an activity. One or two Huddle leaders can lead this portion:

- Pray to start
- Offer snacks, pizza, donuts, etc... depending on the time and place of the Huddle
- Come up with one or two thoughtful questions you can ask the group to get them thinking about the Huddle content that day OR plan a short game or activity that will help those attending get to know one another.

*This part can be as short or as long as your team decides, depending on the length of your Huddle

EQUIP

The equipping portion of a Huddle is when 1-2 leaders lead the Huddle in a study God's Word and through small group discussion about the topic. FCA offers a variety of resources to help your leaders share biblically sound content (several listed in the Resources at the end of this packet). There are three parts we always look for during the equip portion:

1. We always open God's Word for truth and to know Jesus more
2. We always get into small groups and discuss 3-4 questions about the topic
3. We always share the Gospel and remind those attending that freedom from sin and new life is only available through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Not our works, only faith in what He's done for us.

*The equip portion should be the bulk of your Huddle time

EMPOWER

The empower portion is where we challenge coaches/athletes attending to grow and share what they learned by:

1. Identifying one way they want to live differently based on the lesson they heard
2. Considering one person they know who they can share the point of the lesson with. Even if they aren't a Christian, sharing the stories or the core truths can be encouraging for anyone.

HUDDLE FAQ

- How long should Huddles be?
 - Huddles can be as long or as short as you decide. It all depends on when you choose to meet and how much time you think your coaches and athletes can commit to meeting.
 - Example: on campus lunch Huddles are often 30 minutes, before/after practice can be 30 mins to 1 hour, evening college Huddles are often 1 hour to 90 mins, etc...
- Where can I start a Huddle?
 - Anywhere coaches and athletes are! On school campuses, with school sports teams, with club teams, with rec league teams, etc...
- Can I start FCA on a public school campus?
 - The short answer is yes! Athletes must be given the same access to start a club as all other non academic clubs on campus. Coaches can host coaches Huddles for other coaches before/after school or during lunch, as long as it's not during contract time. If you have questions about this, contact your local staff member!
- Who can attend FCA?
 - Everyone is welcome to attend FCA, regardless of their beliefs or if they are an athlete/coach or not. We just ask that the Huddle Leaders be coaches or athletes.



RESOURCES

[E3 Discipleship Playbook: the E3 Playbook summarizes Jesus discipleship principles in three sections: Engage, Equip, and Empower. Each section includes four biblical principles of discipleship multiplication, training and tools to help guide you on the disciple-making journey.](#)

[Huddle Constitution: a template for on campus Huddles in need of a club consitution](#)

[Leadership Huddle Outline: an outline for leadership Huddles to help you disciple your athletes/coaches and help them plan the Huddles they lead](#)

[Huddle Planning Outline - a generic outline to help you plan your Huddles](#)



FCA Gear: home to all FCA branded gear, Bibles, and Bible study books



The Four: the Gospel explained in 4 simple truths



The Core: a study of 8 essentials to strengthen your faith in Jesus



Pursue God: an online resource of video based discipleship content on a variety of topics



FCA Resources: home to FCA devotionals, logos, videos, and more

