TOOLS

HEART QUESTIONS

Everywhere in the world, athletes know when the coach blows the whistle, athlete's better pay attention. In the Bible, the word Shema has the same effect. It means Listen! or Hear! For example, Deuteronomy 6:4 says, "Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." Statements like this are used to grab our attention, to make us listen, and to make us recognize the importance of the message.

Statements like these can spark a spiritual conversation in an instant. Like a seed, these statements or words start small, but if sown in the right soil, they can grow into a large, fruit-bearing tree. If you combine this kind of statement with a pointed question, you have a way to Engage someone's heart. We believe that the intersection of sport and faith can be fertile soil for spiritual conversations. Below are some examples of what we call Heart Questions for coaches and athletes. They're small statements packed with significance and coupled with a question to Engage the heart. Try one today or make up your own!

IMPACTFUL STATEMENT	HEART QUESTION
I spend time in prayer as part of my pre-game routine.	What does your pre-game routine look like?
I have a Bible verse that I keep in my locker.	What keeps you focused when you compete?
When I play, my faith is a source of confidence.	What gives you confidence as an athlete?
Ultimately, I hope to bring glory to God by how I coach [or compete].	What motivates you to coach [or compete]?
I feel poised in competition because no matter what happens, I know that God is in control and that He loves me.	How do you stay sensible and level-headed?
I know this injury has been devastating.	Can I pray for you?
Rest assured, God made you exactly as He wanted.	Do you ever feel inferior or incapable as an athlete/coach? Or maybe envious of others?
My identity is in Jesus Christ. This allows me to compete with freedom and joy.	Have you ever felt like that?
God is really teaching me about the importance of _____ as an athlete/coach.	What important lesson(s) are you learning right now?
I'm thankful that my worth and my value aren't based on what I do on the field or court.	Do you struggle with finding your worth or value in sport?

JESUS STORIES

Memorize a few of the stories listed below. Then, use the tips and examples below to help you share those stories in conversation with others. These stories are a strategic way to Engage someone's heart in deeper conversation. Use these to Engage someone today!

	PARABLES OF JESUS	PASSAGE
1	**The Mustard Seed**	**Matthew 13:31-32**
2	**Leaven and Bread**	**Matthew 13:33**
3	**Hidden Treasure**	**Matthew 13:44**
4	**Valuable Pearl**	**Matthew 13:45-46**

GUIDED CONVERSATION TIPS

1. Create a lead-in sentence.
2. Share the story as best as you can and summarize or emphasize the main points.
3. Ask pointed, follow-up questions.

EXAMPLE 1

1. Let me tell you a story...
2. A man sowed a mustard seed in his field. Mustard seeds start small, but they grow to become a tree, so that birds can nest in its branches (Matthew 13:31-32).
3. What are you sowing into the hearts of your family, friends or teammates?

EXAMPLE 2

1. You know how...
2. A woman adds yeast to her dough, and it leavens the entire loaf (Matthew 13:33).
3. What impact does that have on you, your family, friends or teammates?

EXAMPLE 3

1. That reminds me of a story...
2. There was a man who discovered a treasure that was so valuable, in his joy he went and sold all he had to get it (Matthew 13:44).
3. What's the greatest treasure in your life?

EXAMPLE 4

1. Think about it this way...
2. There's a merchant searching for fine pearls. One day he finds a pearl so valuable that he sells all of his others to buy it (Matthew 13:45-46).
3. What's the most valuable thing that you're searching for right now?