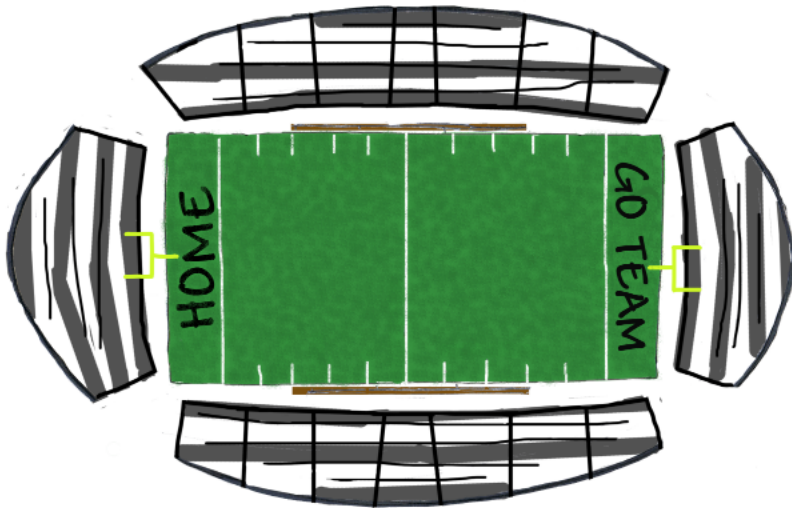




2.1 Explaining Christianity as a Team Sport (Get in the Game)

EXPLAIN: Christianity is more like football, baseball, soccer, or any team sport than it is like golf or tennis. Every disciple is meant to be an important member of the team not a solo player.

DRAW an oval to represent a stadium, with a playing field (football, baseball, soccer, etc.), a bench close to it, and then the stands.



EXPLAIN:

- The spiritually unborn person is outside of Christ and outside of the stadium. His entrance into the stadium comes when he accepts Christ as Lord and Savior and becomes a spiritual infant.
- At first, the spiritual infant takes a seat in the stands as a spectator, watching events unfold.

- With help and encouragement from the church, the spiritual infant develops into a spiritual child who is ready to take a seat on the bench as a “player in waiting.”

- The spiritual child who grows into a spiritual young adult is now ready to join other members of the team on the playing field, actively ministering and serving.

- The spiritual young adult who matures into a spiritual parent not only plays on the field, but now serves as a coach and mentor to others.

We depend heavily on one another as we move from outsider, to spectator, to player on the bench, to player on the field, to coach. All of this is designed to take place in the context of a healthy Christian community.

STUDY the following passages with the person you are discipling: Hebrews 3:12-13 and 10:24-25
Keep these truths in mind as you stress the importance of spiritual community:

- Spiritual children need to be connected to other disciples.
- Believers can help each other by meeting together, encouraging each other, and spurring one another on to growth.
- Intentional disciple makers connect spiritual children to others in the body of Christ as well as minister to them personally.