

REACHING THE ELITE BASEBALL PLAYER THROUGH OFF SEASON CLINICS

Most elite baseball players find it difficult at best to attend an FCA Camp in the summer. These players are often times playing competitive travel baseball and do not have time to attend a summer camp. FCA Baseball has come up with a clinic model to help local staff develop a ministry to reach these elite players for Christ.

This clinic model is best done in the months of November and early December on a Saturday. This is a time when you can call upon local Major or Minor League players as well as local College and High School coaches to not only assist with the baseball stations, but more importantly to share their faith.

The unique part of this clinic model is at each break a testimony is shared by a clinician about their walk with Christ. The final testimony is usually reserved for your best known clinician whether he is a player or coach.

One of our core values is excellence and we want to make sure that the clinic is an excellent time of teaching the game. The key person is your Head Clinician who will set up the clinic and the stations as well as set the schedule in place for the teaching. Each clinician must be a Christian who is willing to share His walk with Christ as well as be able to teach an aspect of the game. Your Head Clinician should be a coach you have a relationship with that you are ministering to as a coach. He will be invaluable in helping organize the teaching (many of these coaches do their own clinics and have formats they are comfortable using when teaching the game).

The time to begin to organize and plan a late fall clinic is early spring. You want to first set a time and place. The further north you live the more likely that the clinic must be held at an indoor facility. Always have a backup plan in case of rain if you plan to be outside, a local high school gym may be an alternative. As soon as this time and place is set be sure to get the word out to your local High School baseball teams and any travel teams in your area. Also decide what you will charge for the clinic. This should not be a major fundraiser but an opportunity to reach players for Christ. Pray!

Second secure your Head Clinician and begin to work on a schedule. Begin your recruiting of Christian players and coaches from your area to serve and share. This should be completed by early August. Pray!

Two months out begin your publicity in earnest with registration available. Set a deadline to preregister as well as clinic size for each age group. Pray!

Day of the clinic

- You will want to make sure lunch is provided
- Resources such as the FCA Baseball New Testament and baseball editions of “Sharing the Victory” magazine would be great to give to each person present
- Use the clinic time to have someone address the parents on how to be a Christian baseball parent
- Make sure at the conclusion of the last testimony to close the day with a Gospel presentation and time given for those who attend to make a decision for Christ.
- Follow up by directing the players present to their local school FCA Huddles
- Praise God for all He has done in the day!