

## Team Outreach Bible Studies

Team Outreach Bible Studies (TOBS) are a primary outreach strategy used in Athletes IV ministries to reach “every team, every teammate.” It is not the ONLY outreach strategy used, but has become a very IMPORTANT and EFFECTIVE strategy in student-led, outreach-focused ministries happening on teams.

### WHAT IS A TEAM OUTREACH BIBLE STUDY?

- It’s a Bible study for the team, not just a Bible study on your team.
- It’s an effective strategy/tool for “outreach” ministry to your whole team which seeks to involve all teammates—no matter where they are at in relationship to Jesus—and to help each one to come to know, love, and follow Jesus.
- It is you, a teammate, reaching out to your fellow teammates through Bible study.

### WHY USE THIS KIND OF STRATEGY TO REACH YOUR TEAMMATES?

- Many teammates won’t go to other things outside of the team (Christian LG gatherings, other Bible studies, church, etc.)– even if they are “athlete specific” in focus.
- Many teammates will come (or at least might consider coming) to something on the team because they know and trust those involved.
- You may be the only true Christian that some of your teammates know, and a TOBS may be the only thing that they will get involved in that will help them meet Jesus.
- God can use you—and He will use His Word—to help your teammates to become followers of Jesus.
- TOBS work!

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN A TOBS?

It starts with a certain kind of leader; one who has 4 important qualities:

- Loves God and is a devoted follower of Jesus
- Has a heart for the spiritual condition of their teammates, wanting them to know, love, and follow Jesus
- Is a committed teammate and a true friend to those on the team (not a “ghost teammate”)
- Is willing to take risks by inviting his/her teammates to the TOBS

[Note: Someone who meets these criteria may still need to be given resources, get training, receive coaching etc. in order to do a quality job in leading a TOBS.]

### HOW DO YOU BEGIN A TOBS?

Before starting, you must figure out how to get teammates “who don’t do Bible study” to do Bible study.

Five key things:

1. Pray, pray, pray! God must open up the hearts and minds of your teammates, and doors of opportunity, for them to even consider being involved in a Bible study—let alone consider coming regularly. We are totally dependent on Him if our TOBS is going to be successful.
2. Talk about the TOBS a lot before inviting teammates to it, emphasizing how it can benefit the team and individual teammates (e.g. the TBS can be a “safe” time and opportunity for teammates to ask questions and to talk honestly about spiritual things without being judged, to go deeper with each other, etc.)

3. Utilize your personal friendships with certain teammates, friendship networks on the team, team member to team member influence and the aspect of "team" to get people to come to at least one TOBS.
4. Have it at a time/place that is convenient and comfortable for those who aren't already following Jesus. (Try including food!)
5. Aim the Bible study at those who aren't already following Jesus.

[Suggestion: Do a discussion-based "inductive" Bible study that focuses on who Jesus is, that reveals where people are at in relationship to Him, and that shows what it means to be a real Christian and a true follower of Him. Consider using the "Encounters with Jesus" 5-week GIG to begin with.]