

News Story Summary

This month, the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament begins. “March Madness” is one of the most popular sporting events of the year. Millions of people will tune in to watch this year’s field of blue chips, dark horses, elites, and Cinderellas. There will be high seeded teams that will meet expectations, while others will exit earlier. In the same way, there will be low-seeded teams that get beaten soundly, while others will exceed expectations and advance further than anyone thought possible.

When an underdog wins, inevitably the post-game interviews will contain variations on the theme of “we play as a team;” “We play for the name on the front of the jersey and not the name on the back of the jersey,” and so on.

(To prepare for this session, check for recent stories about the NCAA tournament, especially any stories about low seeds upsetting high seeds. Be on the lookout for post-game interviews where players talk about playing as a team.)

Focus Attention

As group members get settled in, ask if they have been keeping up with the NCAA tournament. Review the upsets and surprises from this year’s tournament. Invite volunteers to reveal their favorite teams still playing. Review the news story summary above, and discuss any teams that have succeeded, not because of individual superstars, but because of teamwork.

In today’s session, we are going to look at a passage of Scripture many have described as “the blueprint for the early church.” Challenge the group to keep track of how many times the word “together” is used.

Challenge

To wrap up the session, ask: *Who would you consider to be some of the ‘superstars’ of the early church?* Expect to hear people mention Paul, Silas, Barnabas, Peter, and so forth. Say: *As you review Acts 2:41-47, you see a team working together.* Point out that this passage is a perfect example of a team playing for the “name on the front of the jersey” (Jesus Christ), and not to draw attention to themselves. Challenge group members to pray for your church to be unified in its mission of representing Christ in this world.