

GENERATE HEALTHY DISCUSSIONS

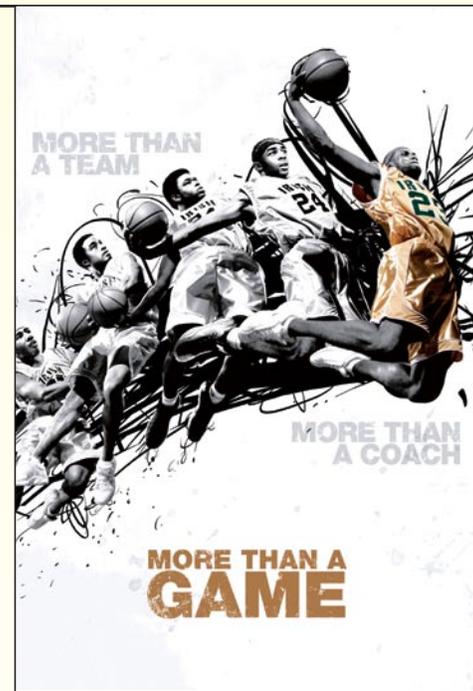
MORE THAN A GAME

More than a team – More than a coach.

Coached by a charismatic but inexperienced player's father, and led by future NBA superstar LeBron James, the "Fab Five's" improbable nine-year journey leads them from a decrepit inner-city gym to the doorstep of a national high school championship. Along the way, the close-knit team is repeatedly tested - both on and off the court - as James' exploding worldwide celebrity threatens to destroy everything they've set out to achieve together.

PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS

- Loyalty, friendship and leadership are themes of the film. As a group, come to consensus on the definition of each and examples from the film. How would you like to see these themes played out in the church?
- The film relays the story of five friends over several years. Think about your best friends, what would the plot-points be in your story line?
- There is a sign in the Irish's locker room that says, "Humility, Unity, Discipline, Thankfulness, Servanthood, Integrity, Passion". If you had a motivational wall what would yours say?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The introductory voice-over is, "Basketball is a vehicle, it's not the end all be all, it's the vehicle to get you from Point A to Point B. Use basketball and let it use you." Discuss what this means in the movie.
2. Little Dru comments that, "Basketball was my playground." What was your playground growing up? What were you passionate about?
3. "We had a natural feel for each other, a chemistry - the team was like a family." Have you ever been part of a team (athletic or otherwise) that made you feel that way? How is your church like a family?
4. "More Than a Game" highlights the AAU – Amateur Athletic Union – and the magnitude of the National High School basketball culture. Were you aware of these entities prior to viewing the film? Do you think that they are good for young athletes? Why or why not?
5. The Ohio Shooting Stars as a team get to the National 8th grade championship for the AAU and are not expected to do well – but go to the finals. Why is it that we cheer so much for the underdog and then root for the favorite to lose? What Bible stories does this remind you of?
6. Even though they are expected to attend Buchtel, the guys opt for St. Vincent - St. Mary for greater chances to play ball together. This is perceived as a betrayal of their community by some by taking their talents out of the neighborhood. What do you think? Was that disloyal of them?
7. Discuss the dynamics of Dru and little Dru as father/son and coach/player.
8. Dru is routinely underestimated due to his height. Are you ever underestimated? How do you respond?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONTINUED):

9. When Romeo joins the team as a starter he has trouble getting into the clique of the “Fab 4”. How did that help/hurt the team?
10. It is clear that the guys' friendship off the court plays itself out on the court as well. Do friendships make us better teammates or group members?
11. In a number of games highlighted in the film, the guys come back from being behind to win – not quitting when behind is a theme in sports. Have you ever “won” after being “behind”?
12. When Coach Dambrot decides to leave the high school for college coaching, this has an effect on the guys who feel betrayed by that. Was that disloyal of him?
13. When LeBron is on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, the team moves the games to the college stadium and fame appears – how did he handle that?
14. In coaching the team during their junior year run to the state championship, Coach Dru says, “This is not who we are” as opposed to offering technical advice. How was that helpful? What was going wrong with the team?
15. Dru commits a technical foul in the last seconds of the game. Have you ever let frustration overcome your better sense? What were the consequences? How did you find forgiveness?
16. During their senior year Sian decides to play in the All-American football game instead of a big basketball game. Was that disloyal? What might you have done in his shoes?
17. LeBron is suspended for several games for accepting inappropriate gifts. Do you think this type of violation is prevalent? Why or why not?
18. Coach Dru remarks, “You just don’t know what life has in store for you.” How do you think this message impacts his players and kids? As a Christian, what does that message mean to you?
19. Who was the leader of this team? Was there just one? How can you be a leader in the community? How does your faith lead you?



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