

On the Diamond

Worship Where You Are

Watch this video of Scooter Gennett in the on-deck circle: [Scooter Gennett on deck](#)

(No tech video summary: Cincinnati Red player Scooter Gennett draws the “Jesus fish” symbol in the dirt of the on deck circle every game. He says he does that in hopes that someone seeing the symbol will become curious and ask questions. He hopes these conversations will help draw people into Christianity or to Jesus, for whom Scooter says he plays the game.)

Devotional Thoughts:

The apostle Paul occasionally used sport or athletic illustrations in his teaching. In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, he talks about the way athletes train. Take a minute to read those verses:

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Baseball and softball players know the discipline that is required. It takes a lot of training and practice to be successful. While Paul is aware of athletic victory, he also reminds that even the greatest sports trophies, in the end, are temporary. Are we training as diligently for spiritual things as we do sports? Are we aware of the eternal victory that is promised to the Christian?

Paul would want each of us to compete intensely and to give our very best at every game, whether we are playing or watching. But in this passage he is also inspired by God to urge us to put that same sort of effort into our faith.

Scooter Gennett’s effort has enabled him to attain the highest level of baseball competition. Even at the MLB level, he is still mindful of wanting to share the good news of Jesus. Let’s all try to have that same perspective as we compete.

Listen to/sing along with the following songs

[I Will Follow](#)

[We Believe](#)

[Our God](#)

[100 popular songs available by following this link](#)

For your time of celebrating communion, read Matthew 26:26-30.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

While you are partaking and praying, meditate on what Jesus was about to endure. What kind of crown was He wearing on the cross? How long did that one last? What kind of crown is He wearing now in Heaven? How long will this one last?

Applying the passage/devotion where we are:

- 1) Draw the "Jesus Fish" symbol in the dirt when you are in the on deck circle.
- 2) Initiate prayer with your team before a game.
- 3) Use the T.H.I.N.K. acronym as you cheer: Is what I am about to say:

True
Honest
Inspiring
Necessary
Kind?

(tip: it sometimes helped us as parents to have suckers on hand so our mouths had something to occupy them instead of yelling)

Personal Prayer time:

As you pray and close your worship time, be praying for a Christ-like attitude win or lose. Pray that you will be reminded of the value of striving to do your best, both on the field and in your faith. Pray that you can remember how long the crowns will last.

Mission opportunity to support: [Fellowship of Christian Athletes](#)