

## Athletes Ministry has Tripled in Size!

Kalena "I never got the chance to go through confirmation, does that mean I'm a Christian?"  
Charlotte: "Oh yeah, I was never baptized, what does that mean for me?"

These are some of the many questions that we tackled at our last Athletes in Action (AIA) weekly meeting. The Lord has grown our athlete's ministry from the first 3 athletes who had the desire to start this ministry to 10+ regularly attending athletes at each meeting from a variety of teams including: softball, soccer, golf, basketball and baseball.



Student Athletes prepping for AIA weekly meeting

At our weekly meeting this past Monday, we read through the "Would you like to Know God personally" booklet, which breaks down the 4 main principles of the gospel:

1. That God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our life
2. But we are sinful and broken people
3. In need of a Savior to bridge the separation that sin causes
4. And it's not enough to know this intellectually, we must individually accept Christ into our lives.

As we read through each page, students had the opportunity to openly discuss each point, while we worked through the various points that they agreed/ disagreed. Each week there are so many good questions that come out of this group of athletes who are wrestling with the Gospel in such a secular environment within NYU.

Mary, a junior softball player has been praying for spiritual conversations to come up with her teammates. Last week on their way to softball practice, the conversation about life after death came up at the back of the bus. Mary was perfectly positioned sitting in the back with her teammates and had the opportunity to ask deeper questions on what her teammates thought about it. Julie, a freshmen softball player, was sitting a couple rows up and her seat-mate overheard the conversation in the back, she said "what are they talking about back there?...God?" Julie responds with, "Yeah! It sounds like it! What are your thoughts about God?" It has been so encouraging to see how *God has answered Mary's prayer by creating opportunities for these conversations amongst the softball team and this is just one of the many similar stories we get to be apart of across all the sports teams that we're reaching through AIA. I'm also amazed to see these athletes taking bold steps to talk about their faith with their teammates.*



Mary had the opportunity to share her testimony at our weekly meeting and one of the other athletes in the group asked her if she could publish her story. If you are interested in hearing more of Mary's story, then check out this link: <https://thriveglobal.com/stories/im-supposed-to-be-the-happy-friend/>

### Prayer Requests:

- That these athletes may continue to have opportunities to tell their teammates about Jesus.
- For the multiplication of AIA through connecting with other teams
- A month of Outreach, we are encouraging students to think of and pray for 3 friends who they can share their faith with. We will be celebrating all the conversations they get into on Feb. 22