

Become a Fan

This module is designed to help your mentee establish points of connection with nationals by getting involved in popular culture. Your mentee will need to engage with people in the community in order to complete this assignment.

Step 1 Identify a sport that is popular in your country (soccer, rugby, cricket, cycling, etc.) preferably one which is a topic of everyday conversations.

Step 2 Select three different teams that have a significant following in your country. (For example, in the U.S. we might select, the Atlanta Braves, New York Yankees, and Los Angeles Dodgers.)

Step 3 Tell your mentee that the assignment for the next week is to become a fan of one of the teams that you have selected. In order to become a fan, your mentee must tell three different people, “I am new to your country and want to learn about your sports teams. I am thinking of becoming a fan of the _____, or the _____, or the _____. Which team do you think I should choose? What kind of people are the fans of each team?”

Step 4 Tell your mentee that after talking with at least 3 people, he or she should become a fan of the team they think they will like the most.

Step 5 To complete the assignment, your mentee must buy some sort of souvenir (jersey, hat, banner, etc).

Step 6 Finally, your mentee must learn three interesting facts about the team by talking with people in the community. These could include their star player, the last time they won a championship, their style of play, when they were founded, etc.

Debrief

Ask your mentee about their experience.

- What kinds of reactions did you get when you asked people about sports teams?
- Did you learn anything about the fan base of different teams? (i.e., are some teams “working class” while others are more “elitist”? Are some teams dominant? Are there teams that are underdogs, but people love?)
- What did you learn about your ability to interact with nationals through this experience?
- How do you think this process will help you engage with your community and neighbors as you go about ministry?