

From the Sidelines to the Sanctuary

*Reaching Families through
Youth Sports*



**If your church was to close its doors,
would your community be upset?**



5 WAYS TO EFFECTIVELY REACH THE FAMILY THROUGH SPORTS MINISTRY



Sports Ministry Provides a Comfortable Environment

- » The most uncomfortable thing for an unchurched family is pulling up in the parking lot of a church.
- » Welcoming is more than a system!
- » Be available! During game day, practices, have someone available for families
- » Have welcome signs when pulling in to lead family members to your field of gym.

Sports Ministry Presents Opportunity for Intentional Relationships

- » Sports is a gathering platform.
- » Upward creates a host family description to help create relationships during weekly practices and games
- » You all have something in common...Children playing on the same team, create conversations, ask questions, invite them to a church event.
- » Creating these real relationships are key!

Sports Ministry Promotes the Importance of Children

- » Communicate your vision and heart for children throughout your volunteers. (coaches, asst. coaches, referees, etc.)
- » During half time devotions share the children's ministry opportunities for their children to get connected
- » Communicate how families have a place to attend, etc.
- » You cannot over communicate (by communicating you gain trust)

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Sports Ministry Produces Serving Opportunities

- » Coach, Assistant Coach, Referee, Greeter, Announcer.....etc.
- » It's ok if you're not athletic!
- » Ministry Development
- » Use of spiritual gifts

Sports Ministry Paves the Way for the Next Step

- » Every person has a spiritual next step. Relationships happen over time, continue to help families plug in to your church.
- » Ask questions, invite families to other church events, find a small group where they can plug in
- » Be authentic in your nurturing
- » Help them find the best place where they can serve



My entry point to the church was being a basketball coach. I found a group of men who taught me scripture, invited me in, and helped me plug into the church. I come back each season as a coach to help other men see their value on and off the court!



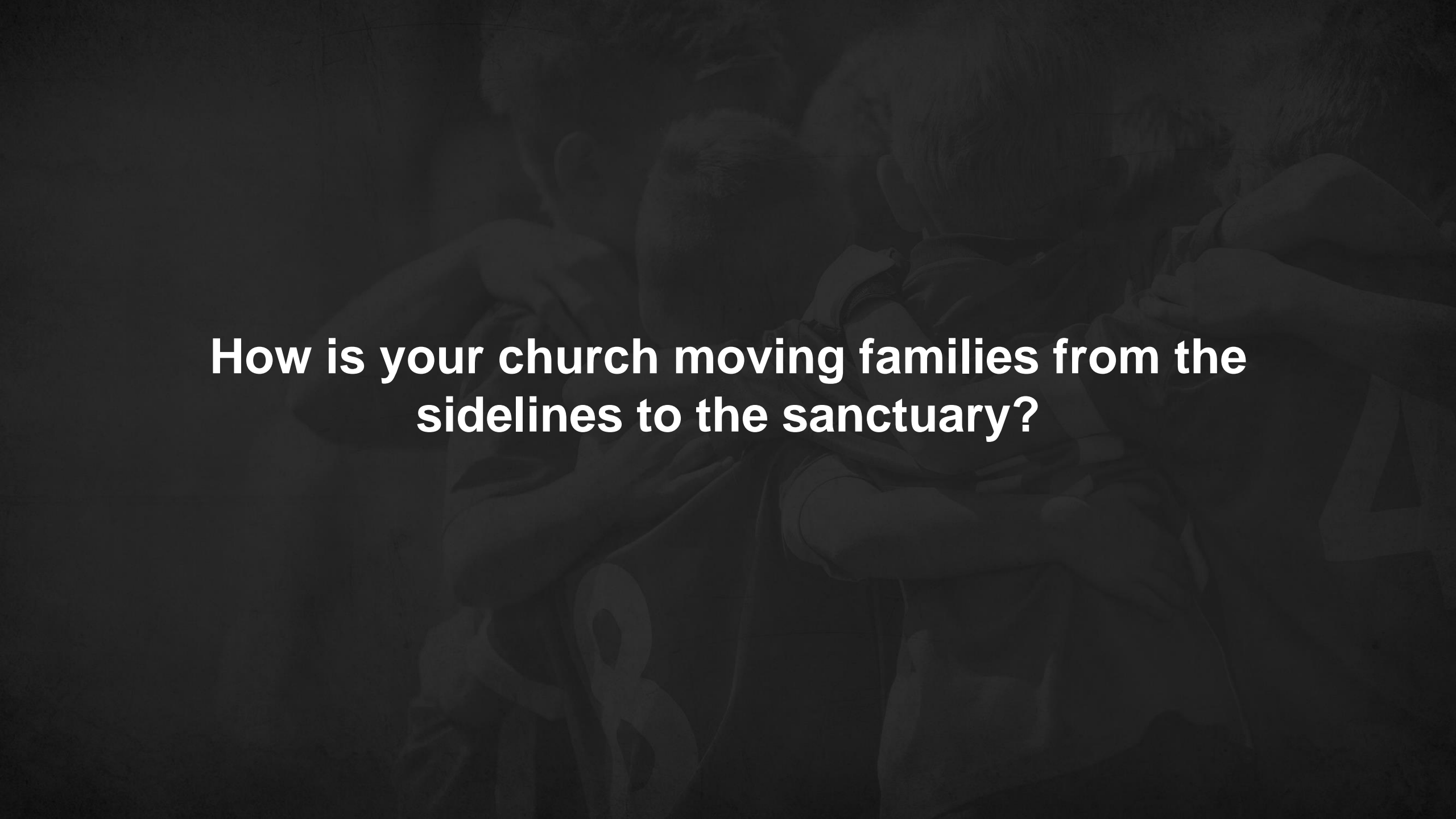
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OUR OPPORTUNITY IS VAST....!



Up to 50% of families in Upward Sports leagues state they are not associated with a church family.

Sports Ministry provides a bridge for the church to intersect with the unchurched.



How is your church moving families from the sidelines to the sanctuary?



Thank you!

Check out [Upward.org/Church-Leaders](https://www.upward.org/church-leaders) to learn more.