

High School**March 11, 2018****It's Outta Here!**

The 2017 baseball season will be remembered as the year of the home run.

Players hit 6,104 home in 2017. This slammed the previous record of the 2000 season, which totaled 5,693 home runs.

To understand this drastic increase in homers, researchers have conducted CT scans on game balls. They've investigated baseballs from before and after the start of the surge.

They might have the answer.

Investigations prove that the core of the new baseballs is an average of 0.5 grams lighter than the old ones. A less dense core allows baseballs to fly about 6 inches farther.

Lighter baseballs mean that a lot more players are knocking it out of the park.

Discussion Questions

- The homerun surge of 2017 has been a thing. Talk about the effect of this. Is baseball more fun to watch when so many players are swinging for the fences—and making it?
- When the core of the baseball changes, so does the way it responds. Discuss how the baseball's core is like our human hearts. When your heart is changed by the Holy Spirit, how does your behavior change too?
- Through what ways does the Holy Spirit change our hearts?
- In Matthew 23:26–28, Jesus told the Pharisees that they cared too much about keeping their images clean, when their hearts were filthy. Talk about how you see this today too. Why do we resist true transformation from the Lord, but we still want to appear “good” to the world?