



The Other Six | Invitations: Helping People Know Jesus | Week 6 | October 28, 2018

John 1:35-51, Luke 14:16-23, Matt 18:12-14, Matt 8:21-22

Opening: And now comes that word again (we think) so full of “should” and risk and implication for our stated faith—that word “evangelism”. But what if we can make that a natural invitation in our normal “Other Six” relationships. What if it’s not about being a Billy Graham but more about being a listening neighbor or an empathetic office-mate.

Context: We have been exploring various dimensions of our conversations and relationships in the “Other Six” days of the week. We have explored story and the intersection of our story with God’s Story. We have looked at gaps in relationships that need bridging and steps to build those bridges. Today we explore the nature of invitation—it is a critical part of God’s Story.

Can Anything Good Come From There?

Pastor Dan Meyer starts with the skepticism we all know well. Nathanael is asked to “come and see” this Jesus of Nazareth and he responds with “Nazareth, can anything good come from there?” (John 1: 44-46). Nazareth had a reputation. Dan used the words: conquest, control and regulations to describe the city occupied by Roman guards. He wondered about the reputation of church.

What do your “Other Six” friends think of Church? Would they associate these words? What other words might they use? Why do you think that is so?

Invitation Definition

Invitation meaning: 1. **the act of inviting someone to go** to an event: 2. **an action that encourages** or causes something to happen..... *Cambridge English Dictionary*

An action that encourages.....who we are as people in the “Other Six” creates invitation. How can you encourage positive curiosity about your faith in your “Other Six” world? Talk about where it has worked and where it hasn’t.

Pastor Meyer speaks of “dispelling the Nazareth syndrome.....being an attractive witness” and describes some qualifications that allowed Jesus to effectively invite people:

- Relate to their world, their life, listen & ask questions
- Serve them in some way that is helpful (give vs. take)
- Out of this relationship invite them to something different

Give an example of where you have tried this? What happened? What was your feeling as a result?



We must remember we are ultimately inviting someone into a different story, an eternal story, God's Story that over arches every individual story we will ever hear or tell. 80% of the church heard the story because they were invited to go by a friend or family. The redemption of humankind by a loving God is a radical story that we don't need to tell at the beginning—we just need to ask this friend if they would “like to go”. We need to give an invitation.

The act of inviting someone to go.....

Pastor Meyer then goes to the invitation strategy of Jesus. Jesus invited:

- Progressively
- Personally
- Politely
- Perseveringly

Progressively.....where do you start? Have you had coffee with this person? Have you had a meal with them? Have you been in each other's homes? **Think of someone you have a work relationship with and imagine an invitation.** What would you invite them to and why? Talk about what you would expect.

Personally..... engaging the conversation into spiritual life can be as easy as sharing background stories. Life growing up, church background, parents; just facts. There could be pain in their story, that would be good to know. **Talk about the difference between knowing someone's resume and knowing their story.** What barriers do you see that hinder “story” at work?

Politely and Perseveringly..... Pastor Rick Glyman cited Rom 10: 14-15. Read the passage and discuss in the context of the planting metaphor: some plant the seed, some water and God makes it grow (1Cor 3:6-9). There will always be lost sheep (Matt 18:12-14). We need to invite and live with them in a way that encourages them to accept the invitation. They need to be invited so their story can intersect with God's Story.

Practice of the Week: Examin—looking for chances

Each night this week think back over your day. Reflect on each conversation you had and ask: What was the content? Was there presented feeling? What was your response? Most conversations will be workday, time driven, hectic; but if you can learn to see symptoms under the conversation and be curious, it could open the door to a new story. Ask God to show you.

Family Formation: Creating Spiritual Curiosity

Ask your kids if they know their friends' faith? Do they go to church or Sunday School? Ask them to find out. See if they tell their story and begin to learn the spiritual story of their friends.

Additional Resources: “Outreach: Get Motivated to Reach Your Friends” By Don Babin

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these scriptures and study guides in your lives.

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