

Make Disciples: Become an Inviter

Inviting people to Fun Events, Church and Bible Study is a great first step in sharing your faith!

"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus." - John 1:41-42 *What can we learn from the example of Andrew? What three steps did he take? What ended up being the result of his invitation? How many people ended up getting helped because of this one invitation?*

²⁵The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." ²⁷Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" ³⁰They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ³¹Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." ³³Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" ³⁴"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor." ³⁹Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴²They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." – John 4:25-42 *What did the Woman at the well do in verses 28 to 30? What can we learn from her? Now lets read verse 34 through 38 what point is Jesus trying to make? In verse 39 to 41 what were the two things that caused the people to believe? How could this compare with your role in sharing your testimony and inviting people to Church and the ministry leaders role?*

"For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."-Acts 4:20 *Why don't we have this attitude about sharing our faith? What should be our attitude when inviting people to stuff?*

1 out of every 4 people in America would go to Church if a friend would just invite them. – George Barna
63% of young un-churched people said "If a church presented truth to me in an understandable way that influenced the way I live my daily life I would attend." – Ed Stetzer *After looking at these statistics why do you think so many of us are afraid to invite others to Church or Bible Study?*

So why invite people to Church or Bible Study?

1. They will likely hear the gospel; some may even get saved this way.
2. They will connect with Christians and often start to belong before they even believe.
3. Felt and real needs can be met at church and Bible Study.
4. People are most likely to come when invited by an individual rather than a flyer or website ect.
5. Your example encourages other people involved to invite their friends creating spiritual momentum to reach more people. This makes God very happy because he loves everyone. (2 Peter 3:9)
6. When they do finally accept Christ they will likely join your group and receive good follow up and teaching.
7. It can't hurt anything if you lovingly invite them. If you do it the right way it will make them feel included. No one wants to feel left out! They may not even know that they are welcome to check out your Church or ministry until you invite them!

Some Practical Ways to do it!

1. Just ask them face o face! Say something like "Hey I am involved in this awesome Bible Study on campus (or Church) and I am learning a lot about God and making new friends. It really is helping my life. Do you want to check it out with me sometime?" Offer to take them with you. Even if they have a car give them a ride so you can act as their "tour guide" and introduce them to everyone. Also it is helpful to let others know ahead of time you will be bringing a friend so they can make sure to meet them.
2. Always keep invite cards in your pocket to invite friends, acquaintances and strangers. It is as simple and giving them a card and saying "Here is flyer about this Bible Study we are doing at the BMU let me know if you want to check it out. Write your personal information on the back."
3. Call them or send them a text or an email. This is not as personal but something is better than nothing!
4. Use an existing face-book invitation or event to send to lots of your friends! This is the least personal way but it is so low-key that it does not make the person feel pressured. It is actually is a great way to sow broadly and see who is interested. Don't do this instead of the other methods but use it along with the other methods.
5. Make sure to invite friends not only to spiritual things but also to other fun stuff you do. Be a real friend.

Discipleship Challenge: Invite one person to something this week. Memorize: John 1:41-42