

INVITE

I draw others
into a next step
with Jesus



Developing rhythms
in my relationship
with the world

Invite *I draw others into a next step with Jesus*

While building friendships and letting people see your faith, we do need to intentionally help others take a next step. This next step could be inviting them to a church service, an event at the church, or a Christian concert. The next step could be inviting them to ask questions or share your story of faith. You could also invite them to know Jesus by sharing the Gospel message and inviting them to respond. This rhythm is a critical and important step with everyone we know who is outside of faith.

PRACTICES

TELL YOUR STORY: Write out your personal faith story and work with it so that you can share the important details in a concise, natural and engaging manner. Be sure to include your life before coming to Jesus, especially how you viewed faith before it made sense to you. Then write out how you came to faith. What was it that became clear to you? Be sure to share how Jesus died for your sins and overcame death. Then write a few sentences about your life since you came to faith. What is different? What kind of values, meaning and freedom do you now have?

INVITE: Intentionally seek out environments where your friends could be exposed to other Christians or even to the Gospel message. Use invite cards, online invitations or other tools to share details. Don't be discouraged if you hear some "no's". Persevere and continue to invite. Realize that everyone will be at a different place spiritually and some environments and activities will resonate better than others. Be sensitive to their responses. Listen for the why behind the response so that you can either address it or understand their needs.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS: - As you get serious about helping people who don't yet know Jesus to come to know Him, you will get questions. Typically, there are a few things that may be holding them back from faith. Read and research some of the most common questions and answers about Christianity and write summary responses for each one so that you are prepared to share them when asked. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know, but I'll try to find out" when you're asked a tough, sincere question from a friend. The more we learn about our faith, the stronger our trust in God will become. Timothy Keller and Lee Strobel are a couple of writers that may be a good place to start.

ROLE PLAY: One thing that might help you become more comfortable with your own faith and prepare you for opportunities to share, is to meet with another Christian and practice role playing faith conversations. By learning the Gospel and practicing sharing it, you will be better prepared for conversations that God may open up for you.

DIG IN

Read Acts 8:26-39

What role did the Spirit of God play in opening up the opportunity?

Where did Philip start his conversation? Did Philip start with statements or questions? What was the significance of this, do you think?

How do you think Philip knew what to say?

How could this interaction be helpful for you to learn from?

Read John 1:35-51

What do you notice about how the various people were able to meet Jesus?

What did Philip say to Nathanael after just meeting Jesus?

How does a "come and see" approach work with people today? How does it apply to the rhythm of "invite"?

How could this same approach apply to any spiritual next step, even after they become a Christian?

Summarize what you've learned about this rhythm in 3-5 sentences:

RESPOND

Of the four practices (Tell Your Story, Invite, Research Questions, Role Play) which feels most natural to you? Which stands out as an area for growth? If a practice is natural for you, take it to the next level. If a practice is an area where you would like to grow, make a plan to read more about it, and seek out others who do it well or have incorporated it into their lives. Then, actively and intentionally try out that practice for a month. Write down how you have seen God working in you, and others, as a result of anticipating God's movement through the practice.

Write out and practice sharing your story. Make sure to include the Gospel message about Jesus. Think of different ways to be able to incorporate what you know and hear from others' stories to be able to relate with them. Ask yourself, "did I share enough information that the other person can see the difference God has made in my life and sees the need for God in theirs? Were the steps to accepting Jesus evident in my story? Pray that God would give you opportunities to share this with others.

Develop a list of 3-5 people in your life who you would like to know the Gospel. Intentionally look for opportunities and environments to give those people an invitation.

Begin talking about your spiritual life and things you're learning and growing in with other Christians. If we can't talk to one another about spiritual things, it will be next to impossible to have spiritual conversations with unbelievers.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Insider: Bringing the Kingdom of God into Your Everyday World by Jim Peterson

I Once Was Lost: What Postmodern Skeptics Taught Us About Their Path to Jesus
by Don Everts

This Invitational Life: Risking Yourself to Align with God's Heartbeat for Humanity
by Steve Carter

FOR KIDS

Cold-Case Christianity for Kids: Investigate Jesus with a Real Detective by J. Warner Wallace



GRACE CHURCH
extendgrace.org