

# THE POWER OF AN INVITATION

**People are hungry to know who God is and what God is like.**

**Without a clear picture of God, people are hopeless and confused.**

**Jesus is God with skin on - the clearest picture of Who God is.**

John 1:1

**Jesus is the source of life because life is in God.**

John 1:2-5

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14 (NIV)

**Jesus became like us and came to live with us to show us who God is and what God is like.**

<sup>35</sup>The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup>When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup>When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup>"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

John 1:35-39 (NIV)

<sup>41</sup>The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). <sup>42</sup>And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

John 1:41-42 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**Invitations lead to life change.**

*The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."*

John 1:43 (NIV)

**Jesus came to invite us to follow Him, receive His life, and become children of God.**

<sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 1:11-13 (NIV)

**Jesus' invitation to follow Him is for all, but His new and everlasting life is only for those who receive Him and believe in Him as Savior and Lord.**

**I can bring hope by extending an invitation.**

<sup>46</sup>"Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied. <sup>47</sup>As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity." <sup>48</sup>"How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you." <sup>49</sup>Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." <sup>51</sup>Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth."

John 1:46-51 (NLT)

# THE POWER OF AN

## INVITATION

- **Jesus is the hope from Heaven here on earth to make a way to forever be with God, the Giver of Life.**
- **The church is Christ's body incarnate in this world to invite people to follow Jesus and find life in Him.**

*People are not looking for doctrine. They're looking for a God with skin on, a God they can know, speak with, learn from, struggle with, be honest with, get straight answers from, and connect their lives to. Some of my closest friends are ex-churchgoers or nominal Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, and Muslims, and I can tell you for certain that they aren't looking for greater clarity on theology unless that theology really tells them who God is, what He is like, what He thinks of them, who they are, and what their lives can become. People want to find God with skin in the game!... People need to know what the incarnation of God is. This one "doctrine" must become central because it not only tells you exactly what God is like but also shows you how big a life you get to live.*

Hugh Halter, "Flesh: Bringing the Incarnation Down to Earth; Learning to Be Human Like Jesus" (p. 15)

- **When I invite people to be with me, I am inviting them to be near God.**
- **Inviting people invite people.**



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### TEACHING SUMMARY:

Think about keystone invitations in your life that were catalysts for change in your life. We all have been invited into opportunities that changed our life for the good or the bad. Maybe, it was an invitation into a relationship, a chance to try something new, or the request to join a team. Invitations can change the direction of our lives.

Jesus, the clearest picture of Who God is and What God is like, came into this world to extend to all a life changing invitation. An invitation that changes our lives by giving us a fulfilling life through setting us free from sin. All we have to do is trust in Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord. That's how we respond to His invitation.

We also follow Jesus by extending hope to those who are hopeless, inviting them to discover freedom and fulfillment as they trust in and follow Jesus.

### TALK IT OVER:

What invitation have you received that didn't end well for you?

When did someone invite you to do something or be a part of something that changed your life for the good?

What makes it hard to invite others to follow Jesus?

How do you see that inviting others to be near you is a way to invite someone to be close to God?

What is one next step you can take today?

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon: Acts 17:24-28; Psalm 42

Tue: Psalm 143:6-8; Psalm 23

Wed: John 6:57-58; John 14:18-20

Thur: Acts 2:29-39

Fri: Matthew 4:12-17; Matthew 11:20-21; Mark 6:7-12

Sat: Matthew 7:21-27; John 3:1-8 (NLT)