



The Kind of People He Invites

THE INVITATION: SESSION 1

Main Points:

- When Jesus called his Disciples, he flipped the traditional system on its head. He didn't call the religious elite, he called regular people.
- Jesus' disciples weren't perfectly holy before he called them. And we don't have to be either. It is in following him that we become more like him.
- Discipleship is a process, not a program. It is the process of following Jesus and becoming more like him.
- It is also the process of becoming more yourself. St Catherine of Siena said, "Become who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

Commit:

- This week our group is simply committing to coming back next time.

Theme Verse

MATTHEW 4:18-22

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and



The Invitation

THE INVITATION: SESSION 2

Main Points:

The Kerygma (Greek word for “gospel”) can be broken down into 4 main points:

- God loves you. Christianity is not an ideology, but it is a Person. And this person, Jesus, loves you.
- We live separated from God’s love. Something is broken and we call this brokenness - both in the world and in ourselves - sin.
- Jesus’ death and resurrection bridges that divide. It’s like when his arms were stretched out on the cross he reached across that gap between God’s love and human brokenness and made himself the bridge.
- If this is all true, how do we respond? Those first 3 founding principles of the gospel are just principles unless we respond. Jesus is inviting you to follow him. Will you say yes? Will you give Jesus a chance?

Commit:

Take time this week to personally invite Jesus more deeply into your life. Pray this prayer or use your own words:

“Jesus, I thank you for the love you have for me, and for dying for me on the Cross. I’m sorry for my sins, and any choice I’ve made that has separated me from you. I invite you into my heart and in my life and I choose you to be Lord of my life. Amen.”

Theme Verse

1 JOHN 4:9-10

In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.



The Cost

THE INVITATION: SESSION 3

Main Points:

- **Jesus didn't hide from people** that following him was going to come at a cost.
- **Jesus willingly gave up his life.** No one took it from him. He made a choice to sacrifice. And he invites us to do the same. Not be crucified in a literal sense, but to "deny ourselves."
- **Taking up your cross to follow Jesus** may mean giving up sleeping in so that you can get to Mass on time. It may be having to explain to your family and friends why being Catholic is important to us, especially when they don't understand or don't appreciate our faith. It may mean giving up some bad habits.
- **Jesus is close to us in our suffering.** Remember, the cross doesn't have the final word. We believe Jesus rose from the dead. Our pain doesn't have the last word. We have hope in Jesus that there is more than just this life.

Commit:

This week, commit to praying for the other members of your group and their needs at least once before you meet again.

Theme Verse

MATTHEW 16:24

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.



You Are Not Alone

THE INVITATION: SESSION 4

Main Points:

- **Aristotle said there are 3 types of friends:** Friends of Utility (usefulness), Friends of Pleasure (enjoyment) and Friends of Virtue. The third type are friends that are concerned for your good.
- **Having a mentor is like a coach for following Jesus.** They can teach you but also work beside you to reach goals and find new places to grow.
- **Accountability is essential to discipleship:** To be accountable means to own up to an expectation or a standard we are trying to reach. We take account of where we are in meeting that standard. To do this with another person keeps us honest.
- **"The 5 S's of Accountability"** help us have specific goals to work on in our life with Christ:
 - Service
 - Praying with Scripture
 - Sacraments
 - Overcoming Sin
 - Sharing Jesus with Others

Commit:

Choose one of the "5 S's" that you want to work on this week. Set an achievable goal such as praying with scripture 5 minutes everyday or serving your family by helping with dishes without being asked.

Theme Verse

PROVERBS 27:17

Iron is sharpened by iron; one person sharpens another.

