

Improving Our Compelling Invitations

Jesus wants to fill his people with Love and Courage. When we are full of God's Love, we see our friends as God sees them. When we are full of Courage, we are willing to do anything to help our friends grow towards Jesus.

"Jesus, fill me with your love. I open my heart to you. Show me how you see my friends. It took courage from you to go to the cross. Fill me with your courage and strength. We are weak, but you are strong."

As we grow in God's love and courage, we offer compelling invitations.

Compelling Invitations Starts a Ripple Effect

"Come and See" In John, 1, Jesus starts a ripple effect of transformation through his compelling invitation to come and see.

"Jesus said, 'Come and see.' They went and saw the place where Jesus was staying...They stayed with Jesus the rest of the day." - John 1:39 (NIV)

The momentum continues immediate as Philip offers the exact same come and see invitation. (See John 4:29 for how revival breaks our through this ripple effect.)

This worksheet will help you grow as a courageous witness as you learn to offer compelling invitations. May Jesus use your words to change lives!

"They have had too much wine..."

Our invitations are all too often like Acts 2 when the crowd hears the disciples and conclude:

"Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.;" - Acts 2:13 (NIV)

Take a moment to pray:

Jesus, I want to join your "come and see" movement. Help me offer invitations that change lives. Help me to avoid being confusing or boring.

How do I create my "Come and See" invitation?

WHY: Begin your invitation by answering the question, "Why?" This could be addressing a felt need (like justice or belonging), telling a personal story, or casting vision.

WHAT: What are you inviting them to? This could be an event, your community, or a personal next step. End with any logistics (when, where, what time).

Here is an example:

Everyone comes to college to discover themselves. Most of us know that this means thinking about our careers and about who we want to be, but most of us don't think about how spirituality plays into our self discovery. Do you have a community to explore faith with? My small group last year was the highlight of my week because I knew that everyone there was honestly grappling with who they wanted to be and what role they wanted Jesus to play in their lives. I would love for you to join my InterVarsity small group on Wednesdays at 7:30.

NOW WHAT? Write out your winsome invitation above and practice it out loud with a friend or InterVarsity staff.

Things to Avoid in Compelling Invitations

1. Starting with logistics. Our friends aren't ready to commit and a bunch of logistics about an event they haven't heard about is confusing.
2. Giving an invitation full of Christian or InterVarsity lingo.
3. Leaving out the invitation at the end. Many times we do a great job sharing why our friends should join us, but forget to actually ask them to come!

Examples of 15-second Invitations

NEW STUDENT OUTREACH

There are ___ students on our campus who are loved by God. Sadly, many don't know God's love. InterVarsity exists to help students explore that love and be transformed by it. Would a community like that be something you'd be interested in? Or who do you know who would be?

CONFERENCE INVITATION

Last year my friends and I went on a weekend away to InterVarsity's Fall Conference. There was a speaker who inspired me through her story. I realized that God has a plan for my college years that is more than just my classes and what degree I get. Going through the weekend with friends made it all the more powerful. I can't wait to go back to be newly inspired and connect with God. I would love for you to come with me. It is (date). Will you come with me? who else should we bring?

SMALL GROUPS

Thank you for filling out a contact card and letting us know you want to know more about our Bible study. I love our small group because God has used it to change my life. Our small group is happening at (place and time). We are honest and we put the words of Jesus into action afterwards. Small group is even better with friends. Can we invite a few of your friends to make this a great small group? Who might you like to invite?

GIG INVITATION

Thanks for filling out a contact card and telling us that you're curious about spirituality and the teachings of Jesus. I am starting a group to look honestly at Jesus and to explore putting his teachings into practice. Exploring faith is more exciting with friends who are also curious. Who would you like to invite to join?

GENERAL INVITATION

College is a place where we explore who we are and what we believe. Exploring what we believe on our own can be difficult and confusing. Would you or your friends be interested in an honest place to explore Jesus? I joined in an honest community like that last year, and it helped me grow in purpose. I think God is inviting us to create a similar space this year.

Do you want to be a part of it?