



Pastor Toby Locke
Week 8 – 11/11/18

Planning to Reach Out: INVITE to Come and See John 1:43-49

Introduction: How can we get past people's cynicism about the claims of Jesus?

Invite Lost People to Come and See...

⇒ JESUS. *John 1:43-49*

- Philip invited his friend to EXPERIENCE Jesus for himself. (*vs. 45-46*)
- MEETING Jesus for yourself makes all the difference. (*vs. 47-49*)

But how can we get people to experience Jesus TODAY?

⇒ Jesus **IN** the CHURCH.

- Jesus promised to be PRESENT in our midst. *Matthew 18:15-20*
- Collectively we make up the BODY of Jesus. *Ephesians 1:22-23*
- We are the TEMPLE in which God dwells. *Ephesians 2:19-22*
- Meeting Jesus through the CHURCH has a powerful effect. *1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 23-25*
- Our goal must be to invite people to experience the presence of Jesus in **US**.

Concluding Question:

- When was the last time you invited a lost person to experience the presence of Jesus through spending time with his followers?
- Who could you invite and what should you invite them to experience?

FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS LIFE GROUPS

Debrief Plan: 11/11/2018

Icebreakers:

1. Have you ever received an invitation that made you feel very special?
2. If you could invite 5 people (living or dead) to a dinner party, who would it be?

Sermon Summary: When lost people are cynical about the claims of Jesus, the best response is to invite them to come and experience Jesus and decide for themselves. In our world today, surprisingly enough, that means inviting them to spend time with Jesus's followers, who embody Jesus's presence and carry out Jesus's will in the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. What's the difference between **inviting** someone to trust in Jesus and **pressuring** them to trust in Jesus?
2. Do lost people ever have understandable reasons for being cynical about the claims of Jesus (and Christians)? If so, what are they?

* Come and See Jesus:

3. *Read John 4:25-29, 39-42.* What was it that the Samaritan woman wanted her friends and neighbors to come and see about Jesus? How do you suppose they were able to come to the conclusion that He was the Savior?
4. What did you experience about Jesus that made Him compelling to YOU?

* Come and See Jesus IN the Church:

5. *Read Matthew 18:19-20.* How does knowing that Jesus is in our midst change our perspective on the time we spend together as Christians?
6. Knowing we're Jesus's body shows our connection to Jesus AND to each other (*see 1 Corinthians 12:12-26*). Does that connection to other believers matter when it comes to reaching out to lost people? If so, how?
7. What are some contexts where a group of Christians could gather "on Jesus business" and still include unbelievers so they can experience Jesus in us?
8. Have you ever felt the presence of God in His people? How did it affect you?
9. Who is a lost person you've invited to some kind of a gathering of Christians? Did they accept? Did they show up? What effect did it have on them?

Prayer Prompters: (*Consider splitting into small groups of 2 or 4 to pray!*)

- Pray for someone by name that you've invited to a gathering of Christians in the past, even if it's been a long time!
- Ask God who He might want you to invite to some gathering of His followers.