Pastor Dave Patterson
PERSPECTIVE
Part 3: Be The Invitation

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group’s goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

“I love that you guys pray for revival. But when you pray for revival you often get what you didn’t expect, like not being able to find a parking spot or to sit where you like or not knowing most of the people at church. The blessing of revival can get messy and also be a curse if all you want is a comfortable church. If you are going to pray for revival and mean it, then you have to be prepared to be uncomfortable as a church”

Cass Langton, Hillsong Church, AUS.
The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them. They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” “Come and see,” he said. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”). Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).

How Andrew Operated

1. **BE THE INVITATION**
   (Spend some time with Jesus then invite someone who you have relationship with)

2. **BE AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED** = proximity to Jesus and practical answers

3. **START THE CONVERSATION**

   In the book **“THE POWER OF HABIT”**

   “Some habits have the power to start a chain reaction, changing other habits as they move through your life, family or organization. In other words, some habits matter more than others in remaking our lives. These are “keystone habits,” and they can influence how people work, eat, play, live, spend, and communicate. Keystone habits start a process that, over time, transforms everything.”

   Charles Duhigg
3 Q’s = 3 NOTS

1. "Things are NOT going well “
2. “We were NOT prepared for __________”
3. “I am NOT from around here”

3 things that motivate us to be the invitation?

1. Eternity

[2 Corinthians 5:10]

For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

2. Christ’s Love compels us

[2 Corinthians 5:14-15]

For Christ love compels us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

3. We are Christ ambassadors

[2 Corinthians 5:18-20]

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us.
Stories from the empty seats

Hi, my name is Hannah. I was raised in a Christian home, but at the age of 10 my world fell apart. My dad left us and my mom became an alcoholic. for the next 10 years the responsibility of raising my two younger siblings became mine. I became depressed and anxious, and my anxiety almost took my life. When I moved to northern California, a friend invited me to The Father’s House. When I entered the building for the first time, I knew that God was working through the church. That day, I received Jesus, … God healed me here and He is my only hope for living

Hannah

“….An incredible friend kept inviting me to church, and I finally decided to join her at The Father’s House on a Saturday night. That night, I encountered God in a way that I never imagined was possible, and I have been pursuing a relationship with God ever since.”

Rachel

...After joining the military, I drifted further and further away from God. I started to develop serious panic attacks, depression, and social anxiety during my second deployment. I became lost in darkness, and I knew that I needed a light. In February, my friend convinced me to try a new church called The Father’s House. I said yes to the invitation and I was hooked. I clearly remember God whispering to me during a Men’s Event, “I love you, and today is your day to come home.” From that day, the panic attacks subsided, the depression is gone, and I feel free from who I once was. The love of Jesus broke me from those chains, and I am forever thankful. I am a son of God, and I will follow Him for the rest of my life.

Nicholas

“… For most of my life, I simply existed and did not have a purpose to live for. Throughout high school, I started to fall into anxiety and depression. As a result, I didn’t feel comfortable in my own skin, and I didn’t know my worth. I wasn’t raised in the church, but was invited to attend ENCOUNTER by a couple friends from school. I wasn’t sure what to expect, but I decided to go and I was surprised how peaceful I felt there. I knew I wanted to keep going back. When Ashley Hawley spoke and shared her story about being set free from the same things I was
struggling with, I could feel God tugging on my heart, so I prayed. That night, I was set free from my anxiety and depression, God gave me his joy instead, and I have been free ever since”

Gabby

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Have you ever experienced an empty seat at your dining room table? Describe the feeling of someone not sitting in the seat you were used to seeing them in. How do you think God feels about those who are not seated at His table?

2. How many of you are currently in church because someone invited you? What are the challenges we face when inviting people to church?

3. Is the church so full that it is uncomfortable? Do you want a church that is full to capacity? Before you answer that question, think about this one; Am I more concerned for my comfort than helping the lost find their place at the table?

4. Are you spending time with the people who haven't taken a seat at the table? How can you be more intentional about spending the time required, to earn the attention of those God wants you to spend invite?

5. What would motivate you to be the invitation? How can we motivate each other?

6. Who is the one person you should invite to church in the month of December? Spend sometime praying for those people by name. Ask God to give you the opportunity to invite them and the eyes to see when that opportunity presents itself.