



## BIG CHURCH

### Week 2: The Power of an Invite

#### MEET

Sample Icebreaker Question:

If you had to have one song playing constantly in your life as a background song to everything you do, what song would it be?

#### MAGNIFY

Suggested Song(s):

Come, now is the time to worship

Our God is an Awesome God

It may also be useful to have some time here to sing and pray in tongues.

#### MESSAGE

Last week we found out from Luke 14 that God is after a mega-church: a party filled with people. But how will the world know they are invited to God's party? The statistics are telling:

10% of people go to church because they have always gone

10% of people go because of an advert or leaflet

80% of people go due to a personal invite

In Matt. 4:19, Jesus tells Peter he is calling him to be a fisher of men. This is not about being an apostle: this is about being a Christian, every Christian should be a fisher of men. You should be a fisher of men.

God wants you to spread the nets of the gospel and reach people with the good news of his love and kindness. But the good news is the catch depends on the net – not your brilliance! And when the net is the good news of a God of love, it catches people. If you speak fear and guilt, it will not catch people, but the net of the gospel will.

Statistics also show that 41% of people will not go to church because they think it is dull. And in many cases they are right! But who is going to tell people that Tree of Life Church is not dull, is not boring: is a church where Jesus shows up, where the sick are healed, where dreams come true? You have to! So many churches tell you what you should do for Jesus, but we want to let people know what Jesus has done for them.

There are so many people who are one invite away from coming to church. And there is no better time to ask people than Easter. And because we love you so much, we are going to make inviting people as easy as we can! We have designed some fantastic invite cards, we are going to have an awesome Easter service with Alex leading worship and a sermon on “The Divine Exchange” – people will hear the gospel and see healings and miracles.

Invites are amazing! They make people feel special, they make people feel accepted. An invite is a powerful form of outreach.

*Read Matt. II.28-30*

This is an invite – by Jesus to us. What a wonderful invite. Often God’s message comes to us as an invite – so it is no surprise that part of how we show the world God’s love and goodness is through an invite.

*Read John I.40-42*

Andrew invited Peter. The next person you invite could be the next Peter! Andrew told Peter he had found the Christ, so don’t be ashamed to tell people what you have found. If God has healed you, then tell people you found Christ the Healer. If He got you out of debt, tell people you found Christ the Provider. If He transformed your life, tell people you found Christ the Transformer of Lives.

In church on Sunday, we were all given THREE INVITES and an INVITE Card. On the back of the card everyone wrote the names of the people they are going to invite on Easter Sunday. We prayed for those people and prayed for boldness so people could invite them. If you were part of that, do not forget to invite them. They may all say no – shake the dust off your feet and invite someone else! But there are many people who are only one invite away from coming to church.

If you didn't get a chance to do this on Sunday, your Living Church Leader should have some spare invites and cards – why not fill them in now and think about who you are going to invite.

### Questions:

1. What percentages of people go to church due to a personal invite?
2. What is a fisher of men?
3. What is the right net to go fishing for people with?
4. How did you end up coming to Christ?
5. How did you end up coming to Tree of Life Church?
6. What is the invitation Jesus gives us in Matt. II.28-30?
7. What date is Easter Sunday this year?
8. Why is it important that we invite people urgently?
9. Who are the three people you are going to invite to church this Easter Sunday?

### MINISTRY

The vital thing tonight is to pray over the people in the cards. Don't beg God to bring them, but speak boldness over the inviters and believe that their hearts will be divinely opened to hear the gospel.