

Invitations to Discovery



Instructor Guide

Church Renewal Resource
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region
Church of the Nazarene

Acknowledgments

Director of Course Development - Dr. Lyle Pointer

Author of Module - Dr. Lyle Pointer, 2014

Curriculum Developer - Thea Ardrey, 2015

Graphic Designer - Jackie James, 2015

Evangelism Ministries

© 2015 USA/Canada Region

Church of the Nazarene

All Rights Reserved

Permission is granted to copy this material for local church training.

No part of this material may be copied, photocopied, or reproduced in any form for the purposes of sale.

Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
 - Pens and/or pencils
 - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
 - Projector
 - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so that each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

Invitations to Discovery

Module at a Glance

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

| SECTION | TIME | PAGE | BRIEF DESCRIPTION |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|---|
| I. Introduction | 5 mins. | P. 5 | Introduce module, purpose, and objectives. |
| II. Lecture | 25 mins. | P. 6 | Share how Jesus was faithful to His mission to reach lost people by calling them and teaching them. |
| III. Action Planning | 15 mins. | P. 9 | Learn the invitations to discovery. |
| IV. Discussion | 15 mins. | P. 10 | Evaluate your present evangelistic ministry and how it can include God's invitations to discovery. |
| V. Module Wrap-Up | 5 mins. | P. 10 | Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic. |
| Total Module Time: 75 mins. | | | |

Permission to copy for local church training only.

© 2014 USA/Canada Region

Church of the Nazarene

Invitations to Discovery

For more information go to :

www.usacanadaregion.org/training-modules

I. Module Introduction

(5 minutes)

Notes

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes.

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

The purpose of this module is:

To invite people into a relationship with Jesus.

Slide 2

The objectives for this module are:

- *To examine Jesus’ example of evangelism.*
- *To duplicate his efforts in a way that fits our context.*
- *To inspire greater efforts to reach lost people for Christ.*

II. Lecture

(20 minutes)

(The underlined text represents the blanks in the participant booklet.)

I. Jesus was very clear in what He was attempting to do while here on earth.

Notice His mission statements:

- A. To **SEEK** and to save the lost.
- B. To **HEAL** the sick.
- C. To **MINISTER** to the poor.
- D. Not to be served, but to serve.

II. Jesus openly **AVOWED** His commitment to loving God by loving people.

III. Notice each of His mission statements was directed toward people.

IV. Let's look at the Gospel of John to see Jesus' pattern of evangelism:

- A. Jesus **INVITES** several men to follow Him (John 1:39).
 - 1. Andrew **FINDS** his brother Peter (John 1:41).
 - a. We naturally **GO** to our relatives.
 - b. Our best prospects include those who are closest to us—the ones with whom we have the best rapport.
 - 2. Andrew **BRINGS** Simon to Jesus.
 - a. Jesus **RESPONDS** to the introduction of Simon by saying, "You shall be called Peter."
 - b. Jesus **ENVISIONED** Simon for who he could become—rock solid Peter.
 - 3. Jesus **CALLS** Philip (John 1:43).
 - a. Philip was from the same city as Andrew and Peter.
 - b. These brothers may, in fact, have been the contact persons for Jesus.
 - c. Philip then goes to find Nathaniel (John 1:45).

Notes

Slide 3

Slide 4

Slide 5

Slide 6

Slide 7

Slide 8

II. Lecture (cont.)

- d. The chain of personal witnesses accounts for the **GROWTH** of the Church beginning with the disciples.
4. Jesus' day to day contact with the disciples shows the impact of **INTENSIVE** ministry.
5. Witnessing at its best is an invitation, "**COME** and see" (John 1:46).
 - a. Invitation to discovery is part of the **POWER** of witnessing.
 - b. Witnessing is **EFFECTIVE** depending upon the approach of the witness.
6. Jesus begins His witnessing approach with the question, "May I help you?" (John 1:38).
 - a. Questions help us to **IDENTIFY** the potential believer's level of interest.
 - b. By asking questions we can **DISCOVER** where people are and the measure of openness they bring with them.
7. Jesus' pattern of evangelism combined association and demonstration (John 1:39).
8. Complimenting a person's **CHARACTER** opens the door to gaining a disciple (1:47).
 - a. Nathaniel was a truthful and **TRANSPARENT** person.
 - b. He was **PREPARED** spiritually by knowledge of the scripture (1:45-51).
 - c. We are to start with the best prospects, the most prepared, truly open and spiritually hungry.
9. Jesus was amazingly **PERSONAL** with people (1:48).
 - a. To Nathaniel he said, "I saw you under the fig tree."

Notes

Slide 8

Slide 9

Slide 10

Slide 11

Slide 12

Slide 13

II. Lecture (cont.)

Notes

- b. Jesus **IDENTIFIED** with Nathaniel and made him feel important.

10. Jesus painted a vision resulting from true discipleship (1:51).

- a. Why is this great promise given so early in the contact with potential disciples?
- b. New disciples need a great **VISION** to keep them going during hardship.
- c. Jesus was emphasizing the spiritual over the physical miracles.

V. Jesus used metaphors to explain the good news.

- A. A metaphor is a word which has meaning beyond its original definition.
- B. Jesus often used the Kingdom of God theme.
- C. Jesus may very well have been **OPPORTUNISTIC**—He took advantage of the political climate to suggest the Kingdom of God in a time when people were anticipating the Kingdom of David would be restored as the primary rule over Rome.
- D. The Kingdom of God began to have lots of new meaning as Jesus used the term.
- E. He saw the Kingdom of God like a mustard seed, being **PLANTED**, growing, and flourishing.
- F. The Kingdom of God had a present and a future dimension, i.e. the Kingdom of God is presently among us, but will be **USHERED** into its fullness in the final days.
- G. The Kingdom of God suggests the leadership of God in our lives.
 - 1. God wants to become the **RULER** of our lives.
 - 2. He anticipates we will want to **SURRENDER** control to Him.

Slide 13

Slide 14

Slide 15

Slide 16

Slide 17

Slide 18

III. Action Planning

(15 minutes)

- I. God always invites us to discover a relationship with Him.
- II. The nature of His invitation varies, but always He is asking us to trust Him for what we don't have but deeply need.
- III. God offers invitations on the basis of a human need, e.g. lack of understanding, weariness and purpose.
- IV. Invitations include a promise.
- V. Let's consider three invitations to discovery:
 - A. When people lack understanding. God says, "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18).
 - B. To worn out people Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28).
 - C. Jesus called Peter and his brother, Andrew, who were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt 4:19).
- VI. God's invitation is for an ongoing relationship we call discipleship.
 - A. Jesus is not just interested in us making a decision favorable toward Him.
 - B. He wants our relationship to be one of continuous obedience and contagious love.
- VII. Here is another invitation with a promise: "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world'" (Matt 25:34).

IV. Discussion

(10 Minutes)

1. How closely does your life mission approximate the mission statements of Jesus?
2. How often do you ask people to join you in loving God and His people?
3. Describe three ways by which you make spiritual truth come alive for people who are seeking for God.
4. Recall incidents where you may have been able to invite people to follow Jesus.

V. MODULE WRAP-UP

(5 Minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement.
- Close in prayer asking God to help us offer invitations to discover God.

Notes

Slide 19