

Invitations to Discovery Participant Guide

The purpose of this module is:

To invite people into a relationship with Jesus.

Objectives:

- **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.**



Introduction

- I. Jesus was very clear in what He was attempting to do while here on earth. Notice His mission statements:
 - A. To _____ and to save the lost.
 - B. To _____ the sick.
 - C. To _____ to the poor.
 - D. Not to be served, but to serve. Jesus openly _____ His commitment to loving God by loving people.
- II. Jesus openly _____ 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 _____ several men to follow Him (John 1:39).
 1. Andrew _____ his brother Peter (John 1:41).
 - a. We naturally _____ 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 _____ Simon to Jesus.
 - a. Jesus _____ to the introduction of Simon by saying, "You shall be called Peter."
 - b. Jesus _____ Simon for who he could become—rock solid Peter.
 3. Jesus _____ 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).
 - d. The chain of personal witnesses accounts for the _____ of the Church beginning with the disciples.

4. Jesus' day to day contact with the disciples shows the impact of _____ ministry.
5. Witnessing at its best is an invitation, "_____ and see" (John 1:46).
 - a. Invitation to discovery is part of the _____ of witnessing.
 - b. Witnessing is _____ 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 _____ the potential believer's level of interest.
 - b. By asking questions we can _____ 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 _____ opens the door to gaining a disciple (1:47).
 - a. Nathaniel was a truthful and _____ person.
 - b. He was _____ 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 _____ with people (1:48).
 - a. To Nathaniel he said, "I saw you under the fig tree."
 - b. Jesus _____ 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 _____ 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 _____—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 _____, 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 _____ 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 _____ of our lives.
 2. He anticipates we will want to _____ control to Him.
- H. Eternal life is a metaphor often used in the Gospel of John.

1. John 10:10b _____ Jesus came to bring life and to give it more abundantly.
2. Eternal life is not something that happens after death, for we are to experience eternal life beginning now and lasting forever.
3. Eternal life begins in the new birth experience explained to Nicodemus.
4. Jesus clearly says that He is the life-giver (John 14:6).

Conclusion:

- I. _____ and metaphors help us to better understand issues of faith.
- II. They relate ideas we understand to the _____ realm, which we may misunderstand.
- III. They make God and His ways more _____ to us, but all analogies and metaphors have limitations and cannot be pressed to explain all truth.
- IV. Jesus' mission statements and metaphorical sermons help us to understand why people were _____ to Him:
 - a. They knew He cared about them.
 - b. He was making clear ideas formerly mysterious to them.

Action Planning

- 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).

Discussion

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.

