

# Inviting the Unchurched

## Participant Handout



### Introduction

1. Unchurched people want to talk about \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Surveys report \_\_\_\_\_ of today's unchurched will come to church if invited by a family member or friend.
3. The unchurched also includes the "formerly" churched and spiritually \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Unchurched people are most impressed by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Moments of Sharing:** Have you experienced something new or exciting, told a friend, invited them to go with you and they accepted your invitation? Express the emotions you felt.

**"Come and See" Bible Study Scenarios:** In a group of four, read the assigned passages and discuss the following questions.

- Who came? To whom did they come?
- Why do you think they came?
- What was the result(s)?

### Report your insights

- John 1:35-39 (Andrew and Peter)
- John 1:43-50 (Philip and Nathaniel)
- John 3:1-5 (Nicodemus)
- John 4:1-44—note verse 29 & 39 (Samaritan woman)
- John 4:46-53 (Royal officer and his ill son)

### Invitation Insights

\_\_\_\_\_ percent of unchurched Americans desire someone with whom to discuss their personal and spiritual needs . At the same time Christians say they want to \_\_\_\_\_ effectively and to talk with people one-on-one about God.

What are possible responses to the straightforward question—"Would you come with me to my church (party, home, etc.)?"

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## Before You Invite

1. Get together with your church's \_\_\_\_\_ and brainstorm with them about possible ministries.
2. Build Bridges of Friendship with your unchurched friend by:  
(1) Becoming personally acquainted with unchurched people; (2) Cultivating friendships; (3) Praying for your friends; (4) Sharing your social life with them; (5) Complimenting rather than condemn; (6) Talking about your journey of faith at the level of the unchurched person's receptivity; (7) Believing God is at work in the unchurched whether or not you see progress.
3. Pray for unchurched friends. How can you keep their "face" before you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to stir your spirit with Romans 10:14: *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not \_\_\_\_\_? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"*

## The Heart and Mind of the Unchurched

1. The unchurched yearn for a \_\_\_\_\_ in which to belong.
2. Belonging leads to change in beliefs and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Gallup's survey revealed that \_\_\_\_\_ of unchurched Americans indicate they intend to return to worship services.
4. The unchurched feel \_\_\_\_\_ about not attending church.
5. Church \_\_\_\_\_ the unchurched.
6. The unchurched \_\_\_\_\_ they will feel out of place.
7. Many believe church to be the most \_\_\_\_\_ in today's society.
8. Some unchurched report negative experiences from visiting churches, yet they are forgiving and view the church \_\_\_\_\_.

## How will you assess the felt needs of the unchurched in your community?

1. Are you an \_\_\_\_\_ member of a nearby church? (If yes, wish the person well and end the interview)
2. What do you think is the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ in [your area]?
3. Why do you think most people don't \_\_\_\_\_ church?
4. If you were looking for a church in the area, what kinds of things would you look for?

### Small Group Dialogue Questions

1. Why are we members?
2. What is special about this congregation?
3. What might someone new to this congregation gain by being with us?
4. What might our congregation gain by inviting friends to visit with us for worship and other events?
5. How do we invite friends to visit our congregation?
6. How are newcomers welcomed and encouraged to become part of us?
7. Are we ready to invite people?

**Role Plays:** Take turns giving the invitation. The person receiving the invitation will ask why they are invited to the event/service.

- Scenario 1: Invite a friend to come to worship service to hear about Jesus .
- Scenario 2: Invite a friend to go to a movie with a Christian theme.
- Scenario 3: Invite a friend to go with you to provide social care.