

7 Things Church Members Should Say to Guests in a Worship Service

In today's post I look at the positive perspective: seven things we *should* say to guests.

1. **"Thank you for being here."** It's just that basic. I have heard from numerous church guests who returned because they were simply told "thank you."
2. **"Let me help you with that."** If you see someone struggling with umbrellas, young children, diaper bags, purses and other items, a gesture to hold something for them is a huge positive. Of course, this comment is appropriate for member to member as well.
3. **"Please take my seat."** I actually heard that comment twice in a church where I was speaking in the Nashville area. The first comment came from a member to a young family of five who were trying to find a place to sit together.
4. **"Here is my email address. Please let me know if I can help in any way."** Of course, this comment must be used with discretion, but it can be a hugely positive message to a guest.
5. **"Can I show you where you need to go?"** Even in smaller churches, guests will not know where to find the nursery, restrooms and small group meeting areas. You can usually tell when a guest does not know where he or she is to go.
6. **"Let me introduce you to _____."** The return rate of guests is always higher if they meet other people. A church member may have the opportunity to introduce the guest to the pastor, other church staff and other members of the church.
7. **"Would you join us for lunch?"** I saved this question for last for two reasons. First, the situation must obviously be appropriate before you offer the invitation. Second, I have seen this approach have the highest guest return rate of any one factor. What if your church members sought to invite different guests 6 to 12 times a year? The burden would not be great; but the impact would be huge.

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