

Learning to Invite Others

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“Moving Congregations Forward”

Introduction

- This is not 1957–The age of attraction is over
- 87 % of people who come to a church and stay, do so because someone invites them.
- People are only an invitation away.
- Growing churches develop a “culture of invitation” in which everyone is regularly inviting others.
- You do not have to meet “new people” but must think of all the people you know in more missional ways.
- Only 17% of the population in the United States attends worship anywhere.

- The vast majority of people under the age of 25 have never stepped inside a church.
- Growing churches don't wait for people to come to them; they go meet people where they are in the community.

What Do I Say About My Church?

When you are talking with a friend, colleague, neighbor, etc., and the topic of church comes up, what will you say about your church?


Your most important statement is the first one you make.

Your opening words need to be.....

CLEAR: Many people know little about church or have misconceptions.

CONCISE: 7-10 seconds is all you need to describe your church.

DISTINCTIVE: Say it in a way that reflects who you and the church are.

Action Step:  You are in conversation with a friend and he/she asks you about your church. Write out what you would say.

Get up and move around the room “practicing” on other church members as if they were asking you about your church for the first time. Then listen to their first statement.

What good lines did you hear?

The Circles of People You Know

We all know a variety of people in the various “circles” of life we travel in. Some of those circles include: neighbors, relatives, co-workers, various groups and organizations we belong to, hobbies we share with others, people we see socially, etc.

Action Step 

Name the “circles” of life you travel in.

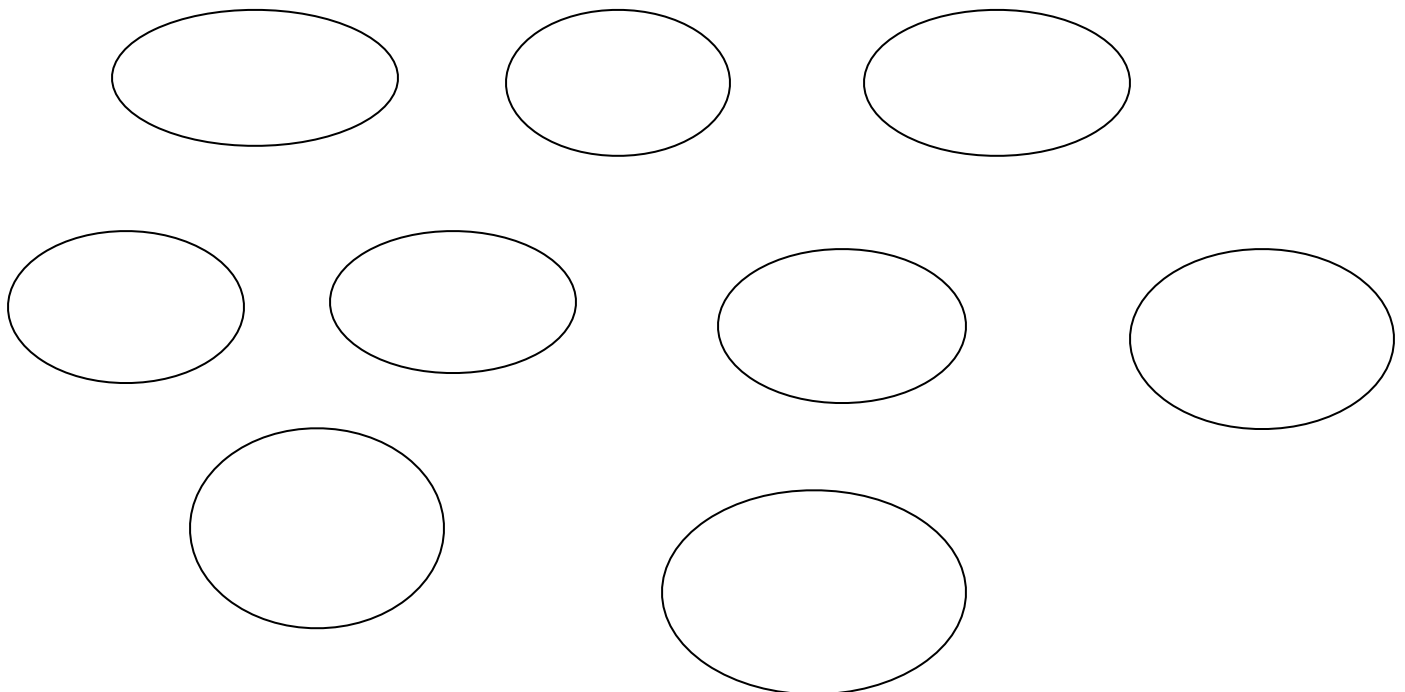
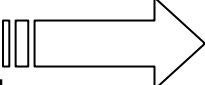


Diagram showing ten empty ovals arranged in three rows: the first row has three ovals, the second row has four ovals, and the third row has three ovals. These ovals are intended for writing the names of the "circles" of life.

Action Step:  As you think about all the people in all the groups you know, can you list the first person you would like to invite to an activity or event?

People Gathering Events

There are two types of people gathering events:

“Just Us”

“Just Them”

Key factors

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Think in terms of “small events” as well as large.

Action Step: 

Based on your lifestyle, hobbies, neighborhood, friends, etc. what is one “Just them” event you can think of?

What other events could serve as “hand-offs”?

What Happens Next?

Next Steps

Practice

Relational Evangelism vs. Coercive Evangelism

God being with us

Resources for Invitation

Unbinding the Gospel Series, Martha Grace Reese

Holy Conversation, Richard Peace

Can I have a Witness? Lillian Daniel