

Invitation

OF A LIFETIME

INTRODUCTION

We've all been invited by someone to do something unique or special before. Sometimes the invitation leads to something great, and sometimes not so much. Either way, most of our lives—new experiences, new opportunities, relationships—begin with an invitation. But what role does God play in this process? One invitation can change someone's life forever, and we get to play a role in this.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is an invitation that led to a bad or unwanted situation in your story?
2. What was an invitation in your life that was pivotal or defining for you? What made it so significant? What might your life be like today had that invitation never been extended?
3. What are regular settings or outings to which you might invite a friend? Why are you comfortable inviting people to *those* places? How does church compare (or contrast) to those places?
4. What is one thing that prevents you from inviting people to church?
5. Is there anyone that comes to mind right now you want to invite to church?
6. What is your story of your first church experience? Were you invited by someone?
7. In your story, have you been a *seeker*, a *starter*, a *returner*, or even all 3? Where would you say you are today?
8. Read Acts 15:19. What does this story communicate to you?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

-2 Corinthians 5:17-21