**CREEKSIDE’S TEACHING NOTES for Sunday, September 9, 2018**

**INVITE POWER**

John 1:35-50

Christianity was launched, grew and impacted the world by leveraging this one word, this one activity called **INVITE**. God the Father invites. God the Holy Spirit invites. Jesus invites. And guess what he has called on you and me to do? He is calling on you and me to extend that invite to others.

At its most basic understanding

evangelism is an invitation to meet Jesus.

In John 1:35-50 . . . there is a whole lot of inviting going on.

* John the Baptist invites Andrew and John
* Jesus invites Andrew and John
* Andrew invites his brother Peter
* Jesus invites Philip
* Philip invites Nathanael

They are all being invited to **come and see** Jesus. In the text there are a number of titles given to the One they are invited to **come and see.**

**“Look, the Lamb of God!”** vs 36

**“Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”)** vs 38

**“We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ)** vs 41

**“We have found the one Moses spoke about in the Law…”** vs 45

**“Rabbi, you are the Son of God; . . .”** vs 49

**“. . . you are the king of Israel”** vs 49

We are not inviting people to join a church, become religious, or to follow a certain lifestyle. We are inviting people to meet a person who loves them, who defeated death, and who alone can bring them into a forever relationship with their Creator.

Sounds like an amazing invitation!

**INVOLVE & INVITE**

GOTTA BE READY TO BE AN EFFECTIVE INVITER.

* Pray for God to ready hearts in your circle of relationships.
* Pray for God to ready your heart.
* Ask God for opportunities and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit providing those opportunities.
* Put a list together of 3-5 people to pray for and invite.

YOU COULD COMMUNICATE YOUR INVITATION THIS WAY.

* *“Hey, would you come to church with me this Sunday?”*
* *“Hey, we have this really cool thing we do at my church where we take a Hollywood movie and use it to teach us how to live better. It is really cool. A couple of thousand people attend. Would you come with me?”*
* *“Hey, I go to this really cool church where we learn about life and God and connect with others. Would you come with me this Sunday?”*
* *“Hey, would you come with me to our church’s Christmas Eve Services? They are really special. And like last year over 4300 people showed up.”*

WHY DO WE STRUGGLE TO INVITE OTHERS?

* We fear they might say NO.
* We fear they might say YES.
* We fear it might change our relationship.
* We fear putting them in an awkward spot.
* We don’t care enough about other people.
* We figure they will say no and we will feel rejected.
* We are afraid they might come.

WAYS TO INVITE.

* Face to face verbal invite.
* Face to face hand them a card invite.
* Get on the phone and make the call invite.
* Post a card on a bulletin board at work/grocery store/telephone post as a general announcement invite.
* Hand someone a Creekside Pen and then leverage the conversation to a personal invite.
* Text someone an invite.
* Email someone an invite.
* Send an E-VITE off our website invite.
* Get them to check out the Creekside website as a way of extending an invite.
* Tell them about the Creekside Online Campus that they can watch at home invite.
* Kidnap them and make them sit through a service invite.

