

A LEGACY OF FAITH

ABOUT THIS WEEK

This week we will be looking at how we leave a legacy of faith by inviting others to church and to experience Jesus for themselves.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Prayer Journal
- Bibles
- Pens
- Paper for Each Person

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- Pray for the meeting
- Print & Read Discussion Guide
- Clean meeting room
- Clean bathroom
- Refreshments (Optional)
- Front door cracked open

OPENING (5-7 MIN)

Briefly welcome everyone and say: To get started today, let's go around and answer:

WHAT WAS THE LAST EVENT YOU WERE INVITED TO? DID YOU GO?

AS A FOLLOW UP, WHO INVITED YOU TO ST. MARK?

Say: Today we'll be talking about inviting others to church and to experience Jesus for themselves.

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Say: But first, can someone start us off with a brief prayer for our time together?

JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS (7-10 MIN)

After the prayer say: To get started, there are two verses that Christians cite when it comes to this idea of inviting.

CAN SOMEONE READ MATTHEW 28:18-20 AND SOMEONE ELSE READ ACTS 1:8?

CALL OUT THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THESE TWO VERSES, WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT IT?

YOUR SPECIFIC INVITATION (20-25 MIN)

Say: We are going to do an activity that will help each of us live out this command from Jesus by identifying the specific people we can invite to St. Mark and, more specifically, to Christmas Eve.

Hosts:
Allow for about 5 minutes
for this exercise.

Host, pass out paper and pens to each person.

After passing out the paper, say: We are going to begin by creating two lists of about ten names each, so draw a line down the middle of your paper and on one side write *FAMILY* and on the other side write *FRIENDS*.

After they write out the headings, say: Okay, now under the *FAMILY* heading, in one minute, write down the closest family members to you.

After a minute, say: Okay, now under the *FRIENDS* heading, in one minute, write down the closest friends to you.

Say: Now, for each person we are going to identify some of our affinities with them. To do this we are going to identify five possible affinities.

<p><i>Hosts:</i> Keep this high-energy and keep it quick.</p>

After working through the different affinities, say: Find the individual with whom you have the highest number of symbols but does not have a cross beside them.

IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING, WHAT SORT OF EMOTIONS DO YOU HAVE INVITING THEM TO CHRISTMAS EVE OR A DECEMBER SERVICE?

After a discussion, say: Remember what was talked about on Sunday at church. God called you to be a fisher, and fishers cast a wide net, they work hard, long, in the darkness, and fail sometimes. But when someone responds, there is incomparable joy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 MIN)

Say: There are a pair of announcements to share today:

- December Christmas prayer service will be Thursday, December 7.
- Christmas Eve is on Sunday, December 24th at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, & 7pm.
- There will be no Kids' Ministry on Christmas Eve and on December 31st, but it will pick back up on January 7th.

CLOSING PRAYER (7-10 MIN)

Say: Are there any prayer requests today. [Please write them in your group prayer journal.]

After prayer requests have been taken, say: To close in prayer we are going to pray for the specific people we talked about inviting tonight. To do this let's share the first name of the person we are going to invite. [Please write the first names in your group prayer journal.] Then we will pray around the circle. I'll start the prayer and we will go to my left. I will also finish the prayer with the other specific prayer requests.