



INVITED

END OF SERIES BOOKLET

Dear church...

Towards the end of 2013 we preached through a series called 'Invited' based on Luke 10. The sermons unpacked the very practical side of Mission - inviting people to encounter Jesus. We looked at the 8 S's or practical steps we can take to Invite people. This booklet outlines each sermon and gives a quick summary, as well as providing some key questions to think about and put into action. Our hope is that this resource will help us become 'doers' of the word and not just 'hearers' and ensure that the seeds sown during the series bear fruit in our lives. You can watch the sermons from our resources section on the website at:

<http://www.thecitychurch.org.uk/resources/sermon/series/501>

The Foundation of Being Fathered

Scripture

Luke 10:1-4

When thinking about how Jesus has called us to go and make disciples, it's crucial for us to understand and know that the Father sends us in love! When we realise this, we will start to see significant changes in our approach to mission:

- A) From experiencing fear to being fortified.
- B) From feeling guilty to being gleeful.
- C) From living in self-reliance to sonship and dependence on God.

Fathered mission sees you being dependent on him. In what ways can you grow in relying on him and not yourself?

The 8 S's

Invited to...

1

...share a smile

Scripture

Luke 10:5-7
Philippians 4:4-7
John 14:25-29

Part of our calling as Christians is to bring the peace of Christ into this world, and one practical way of doing this is simply through a smile. What's great about this is:

- A) It is profoundly powerful.
- B) It takes the pressure off!

How can we know this peace of Christ that we are to bring into the world?

- A) Philippians 4:4-7 lists some of the things we can do to experience peace for ourselves.
- B) John 14:25-29 explains how the Holy Spirit gives us peace.

What moments of your day could you deliberately use to share peace through a smile?

...be served

2

The way we approach the topic of serving is shaped by our understanding of Jesus and his ministry. When we look at Jesus, we see how he perfectly modelled serving throughout his time on earth. In what ways can we live out the call to be like Christ in the way we serve those around us? We can:

- A) Be involved in the world.
- B) Know we're not the answer.
- C) Exclude no one.
- D) Know the love of God for ourselves.

Some examples of ministries that exist to serve the world around us are:

CDAC Winter Shelter Food Bank
Healing on the Streets Love Canterbury

Scripture

Luke 10:5-7
John 13:1-20

3 ...accept prayer when sick

Scripture

Luke 10:9

There are two key commands that we can see in Luke 10:9 about healing:

- 1) A command for all Christians to be involved
- 2) A command that all sickness is potentially able to be healed

The Bible makes it clear that all Christians are to pray for the sick and believe that they can be healed by Jesus. This can often make us feel terrified and overwhelmed, but fortunately we can know that our heavenly Father is the King and we are also royalty. When we understand this, we realise that:

- A) We are significant (we can be free from fear if we face failure and rejection)
- B) We have authority (we can be free from apathy and cynicism)

Practical Step 1 - Healing on the Streets

Every Saturday morning the Healing on the Streets team place chairs on Canterbury High Street and invite people to receive prayer for healing. This is an excellent way to practically get involved and pursue seeing God's healing power at work!

Practical step 2 - Tom's 'Take a Run Up' model for praying for others

- 1) I have been praying for you.
- 2) I will be praying for you.
- 3) Can I pray for you?

Other than the two provided, what other practical steps can you take to pray for people who are sick?

...share a meal

4

Food is such an incredibly important and fun way of socialising with those who don't know Jesus. Sharing food with others is an amazing way to show Jesus to those around us in 3 ways:

Scripture

Luke 10:7-8
Luke 5:27-32
Luke 7:36-40

- 1) It points to HIM - it reveals that Jesus is a God of love and acceptance.
- 2) It points to US - it shows how normal and unimpressive we are.
- 3) It points to THEN - it reflects what will be a key part of eternity with Jesus.

Which people in your life could you share a meal with, or what invitation could you say yes to?

Scripture

Luke 10:16
 1 Peter 3:15-16
 John 4:15-19, 28-30, 39-42
 John 9:6-7, 24-25

It is so important that we tell our stories to those that don't know Jesus. Often we can feel pressure when telling other people about God, but it becomes so much easier when we talk about how God has worked in our own lives. Here are three reasons why our stories are so powerful:

- 1) Our story is someone else's story - others can relate to things we have experienced.
- 2) Our culture is sceptical of top-down truth, but tends to be more open to experience that we have witnessed.
- 3) The Bible is full of powerful, personal stories that point to God.

Why do you personally hope in God? What has he done in your life, in your heart, etc., that gives you confidence in Him, which you could tell others about?

...hear HIS story

Scripture

Luke 10:9b
 Psalm 19:7-11
 Psalm 1:1-4
 Hebrews 4:12

1) What does it mean? Jesus encourages us to be those that say the kingdom of God has come. This means sharing his story with others, and helping people to encounter and meet Jesus.

2) Why is it so important? Hearing God's story is important for two big reasons. Firstly, it reminds us that it's all about him and not about us. Secondly, it points people to the all-powerful mighty God rather than ourselves.

3) How can we make steps forward in this? The best way for us to grow in this is to be those that have faith, both for ourselves, and to be able to step out and share God's story with others.

How are you doing with reading the Bible for yourself? What obstacles do you face when trying to read the Bible?

7 ...come to a stepping stone event

Scripture

Luke 10:9
Luke 5
Luke 19
John 2
John 4
Matthew 8

1) **What are stepping stone events?** They are any kind of non-Sunday event that helps people to know and experience that "the Kingdom of God has come near". We looked at two models that the City Church uses with regards to stepping stone events: these are Tried and Tested events and Tailor Made events.

2) **Why are they important?** It is important because there is a spiritual war raging, and most Christians are oblivious to it. Spending quality time with non-Christians can help to break down any lies they may have believed about Christians.

There are five key issues with how Christians are perceived by others. People tend to think that Christians are...

- 1) Judgemental
- 2) Hypocritical
- 3) Anti-gay
- 4) Too focussed on converting, not loving
- 5) Sheltered

What tailor-made event could your small group start and who could you invite?

...a Sunday

8

The world has a negative view of church and we need to challenge those perceptions if people are going to respond positively to an invitation. If we're going to be motivated to invite others then we need to be personally invested and passionate about church, and to get caught up in the wonder of the gathered people of God! Let's make sure we remember the essential role that 'rejoicing' has in shaping the people of God.

Rejoicing should characterise the people of God. Do you find it hard to believe/accept that the Father rejoices over you? If you truly understood that, what impact should it have on you?

Scripture

Luke 10:20-22
Zephaniah 3:14-17
1 Peter 1:3-6

STEPPING STONES

"The Kingdom of God has come near"

A. TRIED & TESTED

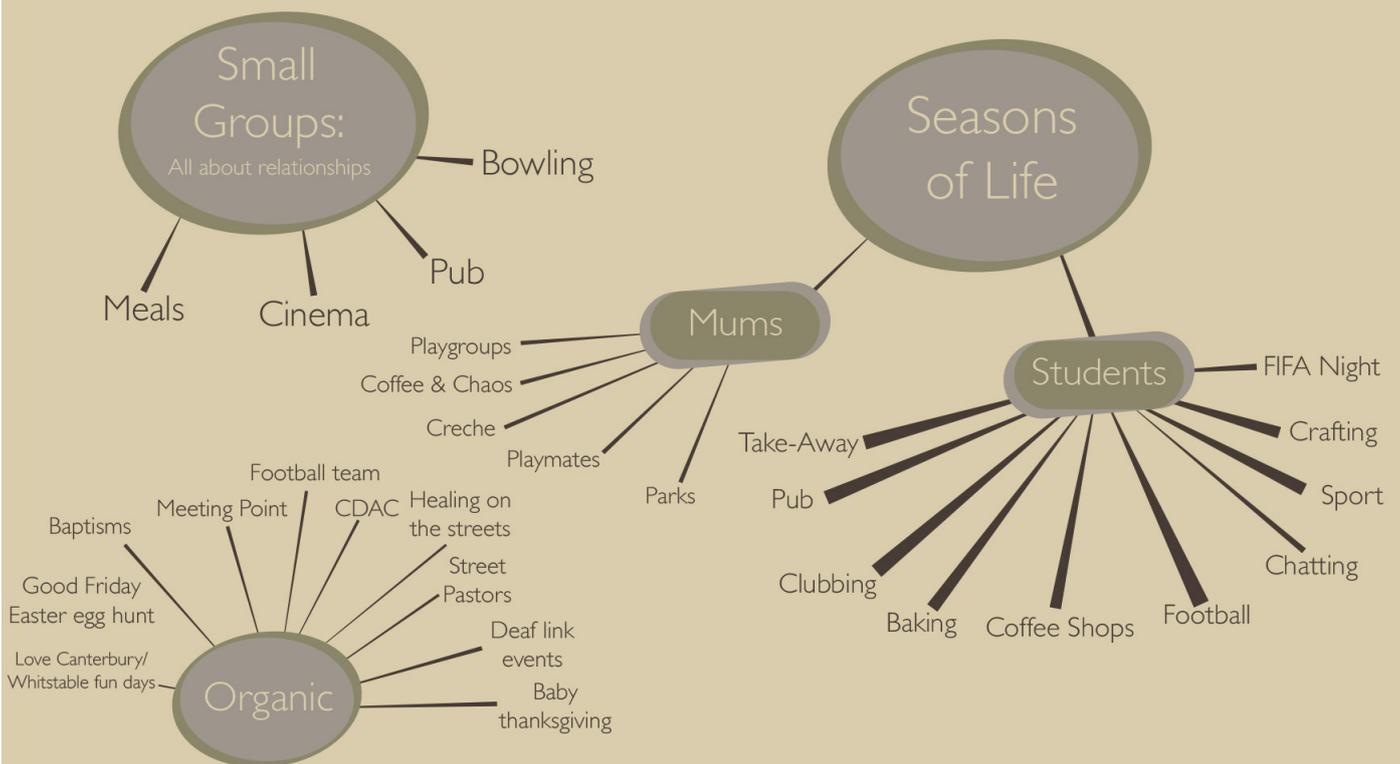
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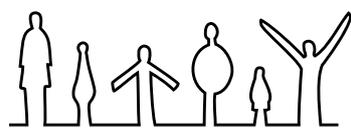
- Street/Beach Pastors
- Healing on the streets
- Deaflinks
- Coffee & Chaos
- Playmates
- Alpha/Uncover
- Debt Advice
- Cantercare
- Foodbank

EVENTS



B. TAILOR MADE





THE CITY
CHURCH