

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: 1More
Message Title: Making The Invite
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: January 15, 2017

UP NEXT

- **Building strong Marriages / re|engage** - If any of your New Year's resolutions included growing closer to your spouse then you need to register for re|engage. Come check it out **Tuesday, January 17th** and then decide if it's right for your marriage.
- **Make a Huge Difference!** - Most couples would not be able to attend re|engage without childcare. You can volunteer to help with re|engage Childcare. This ministry is changing lives and healing marriages. You can be a part of that simply by loving on kids for 2 hours a week. Email robert.conn@reality.church
- **Women's Conference** - Ladies, there's still time to register for the Reality Church Women's Conference on January 21st. The theme this year is "Wholly Loved" and will include keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and fantastic live worship. Register online at reality.church/events.

MAIN IDEA

Who is your 1More?

INTRODUCTION

- It's January, so several people are back in the gym and using words like *reps*, *sets*, *pecs*, *aerobic capacity*, and *optimum heart rate*. Don't you hate it when you work out for 45 minutes and realize you've only burned 287 calories? You do some quick math and realize you'd need to work out continuously for 14,598 hours to look like the people on the gym's poster. But if you know anything about exercise you also know about raising your metabolism. Increased metabolism helps you burn those extra calories when you're not working out. A similar dynamic works in our spiritual lives. If we think that Christian spirituality is just what happens when we're reading the Bible, praying, or singing worship songs in church, we have a malnourished view of faith.
- If you want to lose weight, exercise is necessary, but you don't need to spend 24 hours a day in the gym. You need to do other things like watching what you eat and making ongoing healthier choices throughout the day. Similarly, if you want to grow in your faith you don't need to move into the church building. Rather, you practice disciplines that will help you such as Bible reading, prayer, worship, fasting, solitude, etc. When you do these, *Making the Invite* to people is not so much a task as it is a way of life. It will flow naturally from you, it will be part of who you are.

DISCUSSION

- Inviting people to church can be awesome and empowering but it can also be scary and intimidating. "What if they start asking questions I don't know the answers to?" The book of Proverbs is easily one of the most practical books in the Bible. So much wisdom! Here are three Lessons when interacting with people we can learn from the book's author Solomon.

#1 Avoid an Argument

- Have someone read the following verses [Proverbs 17:14, 17:19; & 18:19](#)
- Tell of a time you have been in a situation where you've "*won the battle but lost the war*" when it comes to faith?

- Do you think that many people opposed to the church are truly anti-God or are they perhaps anti God's people?

"The man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still"
Benjamin Franklin

#2 Recognize a Fool

- It is important to realize that a "fool" is not someone who just simply does not have the information. A "fool" in the spiritual sense is someone who is so obstinate and hard-headed they aren't willing to have a civilized conversation or dialogue.
- Have someone read the following verses [Proverbs 14:7](#); [23:9](#); [18:2](#); [Matthew 7:6](#)
- How do these verses help you know when it's time in the conversation to "walk away"?

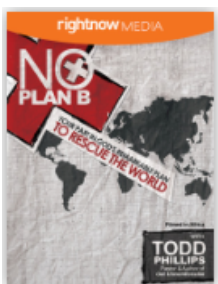
#3 Remember that People are People

- My pastor growing up used to say, *"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."* I used to think that was just a corny catch-phrase until I grew up and realized it was true. We aren't going to strong-arm people into the Kingdom with our knowledge and wisdom.
- We can take a hint of how to accomplish this from a rather surprising resource. Dale Carnegie's book *How to Win Friends and Influence People* is not just for business people. In the book, Dale lists nine guidelines for relating better to people. I think you'll see these guidelines are pretty self-explanatory.
 1. Don't criticize, condemn, or complain.
 2. Give honest, sincere appreciation.
 3. Arouse in the other person an eager want.
 4. Become genuinely interested in other people.
 5. Smile.
 6. Remember that a person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language.
 7. Be a good listener. Encourage others to talk about themselves.
 8. Talk in terms of the other person's interests.
 9. Make the other person feel important - and do it sincerely.
- Long before Carnegie, Solomon observed, *"When people's lives please the lord, even their enemies are at peace with them."* Proverbs 16:7
- How would these guidelines help you in a conversation about God?
- Do you agree or disagree with this statement...and then Why or Why not? ***"Christians are not meant to bring people to Christ. Christians are meant to bring Christ to people."***

APPLY IT.....

- How would you invite someone you knew to church?
- How would you invite someone you "sorta" knew to church?
- How would you invite someone you don't know to church?
- Who is your 1More?

rightnow MEDIA



RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

NO PLAN B - by Todd Phillips

In these four Bible study sessions, Todd Phillips travels to Rwanda and the Republic of Congo to explore how he will make a difference to people looking for hope and help. From the villages and refugee camps of the region, Todd uses Biblical teaching to reveal the important role God has for each of us to rescue the world.