



Ready, Set Grow: Invite
John 1:40-45; Luke 5:27-32

The Power of An Invitation

According to *churchtrainer.com* when people are asked the question, what initially brought you to church? (1) 6-8% walked in by own initiative (2) 2-3% liked a program offered (3) 8-10% liked the pastor (4) 3-4% had a need met by the church (5) 1-2% were evangelized (6) 3-4% attracted by Sunday School **(7) 70-85% Invited by a relative or friend!** The Billy Graham Association issued a statistic that says, the average Christian can identify 7 unchurched people that they have a personal relationship with. They conducted a national survey and 82% of the unchurched said they would come to church with a friend or relative if invited. Yet according to a study done by Thom Rainer only 2% of Christians invite an unchurched person.

Andrew and Philip: John 1:40-45

Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist before he met Jesus. The first thing he did was tell his brother, Simon (Peter), about Jesus and then brought Peter to Jesus. Philip also followed Jesus, then went to tell his friend, Nathanael about Jesus. When Jesus fed the 5,000 Andrew was the one who brought the boy with the lunch to Jesus (John 6:8). When some Greeks wanted to see Jesus, it was Andrew who told Jesus about them (John 12:20-22). Andrew had a habit of bringing people to Jesus!

Matthew: Luke 5:27-32

Levi was a tax collector. When Jesus called Levi, Levi left everything and followed Jesus. It's possible that Jesus then gave him a new name which means "the gift of God," - Matthew (see Matt 9:9). It wasn't enough for him to follow Jesus; Levi wanted his friends to meet Jesus too. So, he hosted a great banquet at his house where he invited Jesus, tax collectors, and many others. The Pharisees complained about Jesus associating with sinners, but Jesus told them the reason He had come was to call sinners to repentance.

How Can we be Like, Andrew, Philip and Matthew?

- We need unchurched friends. How can we make new friends? (1) Our neighbors, (2) Our co-workers, (3) Join a club or community organization, (4) Volunteer at school or in the community, (5) Join a gym
- We need to show the love of Christ in our friendships by helping meet our friends' needs in the name of Christ.
- We need to help them meet Jesus - (1) invite them to church, (2) invite them to special church or Christian activities, (3) invite them to a home Bible study you start, (4) invite them to your home to watch an evangelistic movie, (5) help meet their needs with Christian literature such as tracts, books, audio tapes, or video tapes, (6) pray for them