

No Place Like Home

A Heart for Others

INTRO:

- Heart for the House family offering day is next week!
- A heart for the house a heart for generosity, freedom and today...

A Heart for the House is a Heart for Others.

- It's in God's house where we learn it's not all about us. We learn to be others focused.
- LifeGate Value: *We exist for those who aren't here yet.*
- Your resources in God's hand make an eternal difference, and your service makes an eternal difference (sandal taker offers). Today we are looking at the **power of our invite** and how God uses it to change the world!

STORY: Sean and Meorge

What Can God Do Through You?

- Studies show that 92 percent of people trust recommendations from friends above any other influencer and 67 percent of people say a personal invitation from a family member or friend would be effective in getting them to visit a church.
- What does this tell us? **Almost every person in the house was invited by someone who has a heart for the house.**
- Invitations come in many different forms: some informal, others formal but they communicate **You are important and are included in what's about to happen.**
- Jesus was the greatest inviter of all time. He was always looking for opportunities to invite. His whole ministry on earth was a giant invitation.

Mark 1:17 (TPT)

¹⁷ and said to them, "Come follow me and I will transform you into men who catch people instead of fish!"

A Heart for Others: Follows and Finds.

- Jesus' invitation is full of Promise and Purpose, descriptive and prescriptive at the same time. His part and our part.
 - "I will" He saves, delivers, and restores. You can bank on it. If He says it, He will do it!
 - "You will" They were making a living. Jesus invites them to make a difference.
- Following Jesus and finding others go together. They are inseparable. This is why Jesus did it this way. Our Part: Receive His Promise and Serve His Purpose.

- All through the Bible: Isaiah 6 Cleansing Call, John 4 Woman at the Well, Demoniac went back to his town.
- The Great Invitation changes me, but the Great Commission changes the world.
- The significance of a church isn't in how many it gathers but in how many it sends.
- The evidence of being a Christ follower is that I'm a people finder. Who doesn't have a home in Christ and His church?

A Heart for Others: Ripples and Reflects

John 1:35-49(The Voice)

The day after, John saw Him again as he was visiting with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, he announced again: Do you see Him? This man is the Lamb of God, God's sacrifice to cleanse our sins. ³⁷ At that moment, the two disciples began to follow Jesus, ³⁸⁻³⁹ who turned back to them, saying: What is it that you want? We'd like to know where You are staying. Teacher, may we remain at Your side today? Come and see. Follow Me, and we will camp together. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when they met Jesus. They came and saw where He was staying, but they got more than they imagined. They remained with Him the rest of the day and followed Him for the rest of their lives.

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ One of these new disciples, Andrew, rushed to find his brother Simon and tell him they had found the One who is promised, God's Anointed who will heal the world. ⁴² As Andrew approached with Simon, Jesus looked into him. Your name is Simon, and your father is called John. But from this day forward you will be known as Peter,^[a] the rock.

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ The next day Jesus set out to go into Galilee; and when He came upon Philip, He invited him to join them. Follow Me. Philip, like Andrew and Peter, came from a town called Bethsaida; and he decided to make the journey with Him. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael, a friend, and burst in with excitement: We have found the One. Moses wrote about Him in the Law, all the prophets spoke of the day when He would come, and now He is here—His name is Jesus, son of Joseph the carpenter; and He comes from Nazareth.

Creates Kingdom Ripples:

1. John and Andrew found the Lord through John the Baptist (verses 35-37)
 2. Andrew found Peter (verses 40-42)
 3. Jesus found Philip (verse 43)
 4. Philip found Nathanael (verse 45).
- The Kingdom is built one invitation at a time.
 - *Andrew rushed to Peter* Who are you rushing to?
 - Jesus did His part, but Andrew had to do his part. Some of us are waiting on God when God is waiting on us.

Picture This: *If someone stood on a platform and won 1000 people to Jesus every night for year, 365K, it would take 20K years to reach the world. If one person reaches one person in a year and the next year each of those people reach one other person and it continues to multiply from there, in less than 50 years the entire world would be won for Jesus.*

Reflects the Father's Heart

John 1:46-49 (Voice)

⁴⁶ How can anything good come from a place like Nazareth? Come with me and see for yourself.

⁴⁷ As Philip and Nathanael approached, Jesus saw Nathanael and spoke to those standing around Him. Jesus: Look closely, and you will see an Israelite who is a truth-teller.

Nathanael (overhearing Jesus): ⁴⁸ How would You know this about me? We have never met. I have been watching you before Philip invited you here. Earlier in the day, you were enjoying the shade and fruit of the fig tree. I saw you then. ⁴⁹ Teacher, You are the One—God's own Son and Israel's King.

- Nathaniel had never met Jesus, but Jesus knew who he was. There are people all around us who don't yet know Jesus or what it means to be part of the local church, but Jesus knows them.
- Philip knew if he could just get Nathaniel into the presence of Jesus everything could change.
- When you carry an invitation, you carry the heart of God.
- God loved us so much that he sent a person, Jesus. When He wanted us to believe in a God we couldn't see, he sent a person we could see. He does the same today. He sends you and me. Our greatest responsibility is to reflect the heart of the Father to others.
- Your simple invitation is someone's eternity.

There's no limit to what God can do through your personal invitation.

RESPONSE:

Say "Yes" to serving in the house! (Rally on the Patio)

Say "Yes" to serving through the house! (Grab your invitations)