

## Our Inviting, Initiating Savior

As we invite people to know and follow Jesus, we're doing what our Savior did—and what He commanded us to do. Bill Hybels writes in *Just Walk Across the Room*:

At a certain point in history, Jesus Christ himself left the marvelous fellowship of the Trinity and the worship and adoration of the angels; he wrapped himself in human flesh, and he walked across the cosmos in order to stretch out a hand to people like you and me – many of whom were right in the middle of wrecking their lives.

Romans 5:8 summarizes Christ's redemptive strides: it was when we were helplessly in the throes of sin that Christ extracted himself from the ultimate Circle of Comfort – Heaven itself – to step across time and space to rescue us. Jesus took a decided step toward the ungodly, embracing the worst this planet had to offer with acceptance and love and forgiveness. Miraculously, Christ's death for rebellious and sin-scarred people declared amnesty for everyone.

Think about it: giving your life for a noble person is one thing, but laying it all down for vagrants like us? It was an undeserved and unexpected move to say the least. And the correlation is revolutionary to Christ-followers: we take walks across rooms because *he* took the ultimate walk across a room.

If you've ever wondered why God would go to such lengths to prove His love, you're in good company. To clear up any confusion his first-century audience might have had about why he came, Christ said, "I came to seek and save what was lost."

That's it. *People* were Jesus' One Thing. And they still are. People who are sick. People who are lonely. People who are wandering, depressed, and hopeless. People who have gotten themselves tangled up in suffocating habits and destructive relationships.

***Children often include and invite other children.*** Moms and Dads, take every opportunity to encourage and support your kids in including and inviting others. Share rides. Have friends over. Assure other parents that Kid City or Wired or Bible Camp are good and safe environments for their kids! Most people come to Christ before the age of 18. God wants to use your children to be part of His and Hopevale's mission!

**INVITE PEOPLE**  
***Mission series***

## Come and See

*We are a community of grace and truth inviting people to know and follow Jesus.*  
Hopevale mission statement

1. Think of the best thing someone invited you to be part of recently. Would you have done it otherwise? What made it so good or enjoyable for you?
2. How did the person invite you? What did they do or not do that made you want to go with them? What would have turned you off?
3. What are ways Jesus invited people according to these verses? What would this look like for us today?
  - John 4:4-10—
  - John 1:35-39—
  - Luke 5:1-11—
  - Luke 19:1-6—
4. Read these verses together. Why does the Lord tell us to *go* to others instead of waiting for them to *come* to us?
  - Matthew 28:19-20—
  - Mark 16:15-16—
  - Ephesians 2:1-3—
  - 2 Corinthians 4:3-4—
5. What's different about inviting someone to church versus inviting them to Applebee's after the kids' game? Is it just us, people around us, or are the differences real?
6. What could you do to be a more inviting follower of Jesus? Who around you could you invite to just get together, to your group, to a Sunday morning service? Pray together for these opportunities.

*And then Jesus told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone." Mark 16:15*