



## Series: God's Forever Family

### "Growing God's Family"

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## FIVE 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY EXAMPLES

1<sup>st</sup> The example of Jesus (John 1:35-39)

"Come and see." John 1:39

2<sup>nd</sup> The example of Andrew (John 1:40-42)

"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah,' (that is the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus."  
John 1:41-42 (NIV)

3<sup>rd</sup> The example of Philip (John 1:43-50)

"We have found the one Moses and the prophets wrote about...  
Come and see." (vs. 45-46)

Mark 8:38 (TLB) "And anyone who is ashamed of me and my message in these days of unbelief and sin, I, the Messiah, will be ashamed of him when I return in the glory of my Father, with the holy angels."

4<sup>th</sup> The example of the Samaritan woman (John 4:1-42)

"Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" (v. 29)

5<sup>th</sup> The example in the parable (Luke 14:15-24)

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (v. 35)

## GUIDELINES FOR INVITING RELATIONSHIPS

1<sup>st</sup> Most un-churched though they've rejected the church, they have rejected not Jesus

2<sup>nd</sup> Evangelism is a process, not an event.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offer reasons, not rules

Isaiah 1:18 (NIV) "'Come now, let us reason together,' says the LORD. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'"

4<sup>th</sup> Offering evidence for faith breaks down skepticism

Matthew 22:37 "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."

5<sup>th</sup> Once a person becomes an honest seeker, it's only a matter of time.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV) "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Hebrews 11:6 says "...he (God) rewards those who sincerely seek him."

6<sup>th</sup> The un-churched desire quality moral training for their children

7<sup>th</sup> There's a good chance the un-churched will try church if a friend invites them

In Acts 1:8 "You will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

# Life Group Homework

## Getting Started

1. Share briefly your personal experience of accepting Christ as your Lord?
2. What part did God play in your decision?
3. What part did you play?
4. What part did the other person play?

## Digging Deeper

Now that we've had a chance to think about how we were introduced to Christ, let's look at how we are called to bring others to Christ.

Read Matthew 28:16-20 THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. Who gave the Great Commission and to whom was it given?
2. What is the Great Commission?
3. When will the Great Commission be fulfilled? (see John 3:16 and 2 Peter 3:9)
4. Where do we go to fulfill the Great commission? (see Acts 1:8)

## **Hindrances to being involved in The Great Commission!**

Discuss the following excuses by looking up the scripture passages and identifying solutions to each hindrance.

5. It's difficult for me to talk to someone about Jesus. (See Romans 1:16. Acts 4:29).
6. People will be okay without Christ. (See Acts 4:12)
7. Others aren't involved; why should I be? (see 2 Timothy 2:2)
8. I'm not qualified. (See Philippians 2:13)
9. The task is too big. Where should I begin? (see Acts 1:8)

## **Motivation for Sharing**

Witnessing can become a duty if we don't have the right motives. But sharing your faith for the right reasons is one of the most exciting experiences in life. Let us consider five correct motives for witnessing.

10. Love for Christ. (See 2 Corinthians 5:14-20) What motives dominated Paul's life?
11. Love for people. (see Matthew 9:35 to 10:1) How did Jesus feel about the crowds?
12. People are lost without Christ. According to Ephesians 2:1-7 how did Paul describe the condition of a person who does not know Christ?
13. Desire to do God's will. Read Matthew 28: 18-20. What is the primary command of Christ in this passage?

## **Application**

How can we be ready to communicate to others the importance of a relationship with Christ? List two things you can do.

- A.
- B.

Who are the people who make up your world? Think about your typical day and record the names of individuals with whom you have regular contact at work, school, shopping, recreation, neighborhood and family.