



The Power of Invitation

Biblical Truth: Every person must respond to the invitation of Christ.

Key Verse: Matthew 4:18

Biblical Text: Matthew 4:18–20

Lesson Goal: To encourage each student to answer the invitation of Christ.

🎯 Breaking Ice

To get things rolling play a game of “Red Rover Dodgeball.” Using whatever space you have, divide your group into two teams and give a certain number of dodge balls to each team. Note: If you don’t have dodge balls, rolls of toilet paper with packing tape work great! Have Team 1 go first and INVITE a student from the Team 2 to try to make it across “no man’s land” to their team. As the Team 2 member that was invited comes (running or walking fast depending on you facility), Team 1 throws their dodge balls and tries to hit the person. If they hit them, they become a part of Team 1. If the person makes it without getting hit, they take any player they want back to Team 2. Team 2 takes their turn to invite, and the game continues that way until one team has all the players or until time runs out. Transition by saying:

I loved playing Red Rover when I was younger, especially when my name got called. There’s just something about being invited, being challenged, and being asked to do something that is exciting. Today we are going to be talking about God’s invitation to each of us. There is power in a simple invitation. There is power in a simple answer.

🎯 Jumping In

Ask the students about the best “Wedding Proposals” in history. Talk about their ideas for the most creative way to ask or be asked. Note: If you have access to “Youtube,” there are so many excellent videos of wedding proposals you could show. After talking about the wedding proposals, transition with the following discussion questions:

1. How is God’s call on your life similar to a wedding proposal?
2. Do you think the analogy of marriage is a good way to describe the relationship each of us have with Christ?

3. What does Christ invite us to do?
4. How does Christ invite us?
5. How is our response essential if our relationship with Christ is going to grow stronger?

🎯 Diving Deep

Say this to the students **A few weeks ago we started talking about the Power of One person to lead others to say yes to God. All this depends on God’s invitation and our response. We talked about all of the different times people said yes to God. Let’s read some of the scriptures together and look at the nature of God’s invitation:**

Choose a different student to read each one of the verses on the worksheet below:

- Genesis 6:8, 14, 22
- Genesis 17:1-2
- Exodus 3:1-12
- Judges 6:11-16
- Isaiah 6:1-6
- Matthew 4:18-20

What do all of these passages have in common?

Why do you think God chooses to invite mere people to be His instruments in the world?

Now tell the students that you are going to focus on the calling of Mary in Luke 1:26-38.

After reading through it , ask the students these questions:

1. What’s the first thing that God (through Gabriel) says to Mary? (She is highly favored.)

2. What was God asking Mary to do? (Bring salvation into the world.)
3. What was Mary's response to God? (May it be to me as You have said.)

Tell the students that God's call has two essential ingredients. The first is the AFFIRMATION. God favors us. God loves us. Like Ernie's rubber ducky, God is awfully fond of us. The second part is the INVITATION. Because God loves us, He asks us to do the impossible (which of course with Him all things are possible . . .). The question is not, does God INVITE us; the question is, do we RESPOND. He loves us and he asks us to do great things for Him. AND THEN He asks us to INVITE others to take their place with God. It's like a big spiritual circle that just keeps spiraling out of control. God's affirmation leads to God's invitation which leads us to our choice . . . what will we say?

Drip Drying

So, let's revisit the quality of our yes. When was the last time we responded to God with a simple yes.

There was an old bishop who was asked the question, "When were you called into ministry?" The bishop replied, "The last time, I guess, was this morning." We must learn how to continually respond to the continued calling of Christ in our lives. We must learn to keep saying yes.

 **Action Step:** Invite someone to come to church with you this week and pray that they will be open to God's invitation as well.



God's Invitation

NOAH

Genesis 6:8,14, 22

ABRAHAM

Genesis 17:1-2

MOSES

Exodus 3:1-12

GIDEON

Judges 6:11-16

ISAIAH

Isaiah 6:1-6

DISCIPLES

Matthew 4:18-20

Look at Hebrews 11, many of these who responded to God's invitation are listed in this chapter called the "Faith Chapter." It's simply a record of the heroes of God who lived out their Yes. What will you say?