

**Scripture Text:** Matthew 4:18-20

**Memory Verse:** “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people.” Matt 4:19 NLT

**Biblical Truth That Will Be Learned:** Receiving our gracious invitation to the Kingdom of God, we make the choice to follow Christ. Our response is to invite others to join us in this incredible way of life.

# The Power of Invitation

SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS



**1** This week we will focus on the power of invitation. Find a tool that the children can use to invite their friends to church. This could be in the way of a gift, a coupon, a prize, or some other tool. Teach the children the importance of knowing their church name, the address of the church, the times of the services and the special events that are available for kids. Practice some role playing for inviting friends to church. Show the kids that this can be a very natural discussion and that they don't have to feel awkward.



**Materials:** a very fancy invitation, a fun invitation to a birthday party, other invitations for special occasions. (Have enough for everyone to have one.)

Share the invitations with the kids. Have them describe their invitations by saying what it's for, when it is, where it is, etc. Have the kids discuss how they feel when they get an invitation to a party in the mail. Have them discuss the excitement they feel right before they go to the party.

Discuss with the students how it feels to be left out and not receive an invitation to the party that your friends were invited to.

## 1. The Thrill of Being Invited

Enthusiastically show the kids an invitation you have. Explain to them that it is to a very special occasion and you can't wait to go.

Have them discuss with you the steps you will go through to prepare for the event, such as, deciding what to wear, if there is a gift to buy and what to buy, making arrangements to get there, etc. Emphasize the thrill of being invited to this event and actually getting to go.

Now connect this special invitation to the special invitation that we all have to follow Christ. Explain to the students that God has sent everyone an invitation to follow Him, to enjoy an abundant life in Christ, and to attend the grandest celebration of all time that will last forever. Acts 2:21 tells us that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Everyone has been invited but not everyone accepts the invitation and some will discard this very special invitation.

This would be a great time to invite the students who are not Christians to accept Christ and His invitation. Share with them the ABC's of how to become a Christian. A- Admit you are a sinner (Romans 3:23); B-Believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins (John 1:12); C-Confess that Jesus is Lord of your life (Romans 10:9-10).



## 2. Enjoying the Party

**Materials:** Party goodies and decorations, cake or cupcakes

Share with the students your party favors and decorations and discuss the thrill of being at a party. You might even share some cake or cupcakes. Discuss the excitement of a party. Have the students list on a poster the things that make a party exciting, such as, cake, treats, games, etc.

Again you will connect the excitement of the party to the excitement of being a Christian. Have them list on the other side of the poster the exciting things that happen when we become Christians and how we enjoy our lives with Christ. Remind the students that Jesus came to bring us not just life, but to bring us an abundant life (John 10:10). Make sure you include the excitement of sharing their faith and bringing others to Christ. For Christians, this is one of the most exciting parts of our faith. It's even way better than cake and ice cream!

### 3. Sharing My Invitation



Explain to the children that when they become Christians they become followers of Christ and that comes with the responsibility of bringing others to Christ. The Bible calls it being “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

Choose a way to teach children how to share their faith and lead another child to Christ. An easy tool is one you have already discussed, the ABC’s of salvation. Teach them how to use this tool and then let them practice with other students. It is important that you let them know there is no right or wrong way to pray. God knows our hearts and helps us in those situations. Close your lesson by personally praying for each child to have courage, wisdom and opportunities to bring their friends to Christ. Describe the influence they could have on another child and because of their friendship, could be the very one to bring that child to Christ.



**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for giving each one of us an invitation to be a part of Your kingdom. Help us to understand our responsibility of bringing others to Christ and give us opportunities to see this happen. Amen.



**Take It Home:** Send each student home with a card, a tract, or some kind of a tool that is appropriate and makes it easy for a child to talk to another child about Jesus Christ.