

Series: Renegade

Message: Esther—the Power of an Invitation

June 10, 2012

A renegade does not settle for average or the common but goes against the norm in pursuit of God's best.

Esther: The back-story

The Reason for the Invitation:

John 1:35-51, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, Acts 1:8

The bridge that truth travels over is relationship.

People need answers, not arguments.

Look for opportunity.

Share what you have found, let God do the rest.

God's Plan For Our Friends:

Matthew 28:16-20, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Colossians 4:2-6, Matthew 5:13-16

God's plan for your friends is you.

The church is plan A, there is no plan B.

Real friends share even the hard truths.

3 Questions To Think About:

John 14:6

Do I believe in Jesus?

Do I believe what Jesus said?

Do I believe it applies to my friends?

My intentional momentum:

Father I confess that I am in the right place and the right time to be used by you. You have empowered me with your truth that my friends need. I believe your love for my friends as well and I courageously will build bridges of invitation and I will act. Amen

NEXT STEPS Use these questions to start a conversation

This is our final week of the Spring Quarter. Along with an abbreviated study, you will take some time to reflect on your group experience and then have communion together. Life Groups will take a summer break and resume the week of September 23rd. *Thanks for being part of your Life Group and have a great summer!*

MY STORY

Summer is here! Do you have any special plans, activities or prayer requests for the next few months?

Looking back at this weekend's teaching on "Esther—the Power of an Invitation" was there a particular point, comment or verse that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

Digging Deeper

There are a variety of ways we can have this kind of influence based on our relationship with those around us and how God has designed us. How do Paul's words to the Colossian church in Colossians 4:2-6 affirm and further help us understand what it takes to influence our friends for Christ?

As a result of this week's teaching regarding how has God placed you where you are for such a time as this and the power your invitation has, do you sense God calling you to...

...change the character you portray and the way you care about those in your circle of influence?

...be a bit more open about going to church and your commitment to Christ?

...begin to invite some friends to church to come and see?

...ask some questions and tell the truth to those you regularly encounter?

REMEMBERING HOW GOD HAS WORKED

One of the ways to be encouraged to effectively live out our faith is teaming up and living life with others. Looking back at this past quarter and year, how has your Growth Group experience affirmed, encouraged and/or challenged you in your connection and influence with others, and what it means to follow Christ?

One of the keys to remembering the influence we can have on others is to remember Jesus' ultimate example of what it means to love, serve, and care for others. That's why Jesus told the disciples at the Last Supper to repeatedly come together and take communion. It would remind them of His total commitment of love and faithfulness to all as revealed in His life, death and resurrection.

This week, your Life Group will conclude by doing as the disciples did by taking communion together. To prepare for this, read the following verses and reflect on Jesus' commitment and work in your life as you follow Him.

Psalm 103:8-13

John 15:9-15

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

TAKING IT HOME

Making the invitation. Here are some steps you can take to help you begin sharing your faith.

1. Galatians 5:25 Keep in step with the Spirit of God. Reaching people is about following the Spirit, not about memorizing formulas or winning souls.

2. Seek to be in proximity of people far away from God. Who has God brought across your path?

3. Be a resource provider for people who are seeking a faith journey.

4. Write your story. God gave it to you to share.

Key points to avoid: 1. long-windedness, 2. fuzziness, 3. religionese, 4. Superiority

Strive for: brevity, clarity, simplicity, humility

5. Reflect on one or two of these verses to remind you of God's immense love for you.

Psalm 27:10, Psalm 55:12, Psalm 71:17-18, Psalm 147:3, Romans 5:5, Romans 5:8, Romans 8:35, 38-39, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

5. When you see a door, walk through it. Keep your heart open for the Spirit to speak to you.

6. Start each day by affirming to God and to yourself that you are open and available for God to use today however he desires.

7. Have a Great Big, Enormous, Extravagant Vision of what God is going to do through you to reach people with his love.

8. Our goal is to help people find real life through a relationship with Christ and others.