

THE GREAT INVITATION

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Focus: Jesus paid a high price for our redemption. We have been redeemed in many ways, and our redemption was a free gift we can receive. Because Jesus paid the price for us, we are now sons and daughters of God.

Open: What is the wildest, craziest invitation you have ever received? If you have never received a crazy invitation, what is the wildest or funniest thing someone has ever invited you to do? Did you accept? What happened? Share with the group.

Read: Our greatest purpose in life is to know Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. All of us have been given an invitation from God for salvation. Romans 3:22–25 says: “We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood” (NLT).

God loves you so much that He wanted to make things right between you and Him. He wanted to forgive you for every sin or wrong thing that you have ever done. John 3:16–17 says: “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again” (MSG).

Receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is simple because Jesus has already done all the work for us when He died on the cross. We simply have to ask Him to forgive us of all of our sins and for Him to be Lord of our lives. “Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is

justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame” (Romans 10:9–11, ESV). God loves us so much and He wants to have a personal relationship with us that’s real and full of purpose.

- Talk:**
1. The Bible says that before we know Jesus we are slaves to sin. In what ways were you like a slave before you met Christ? Share with the group.
 2. Read Galatians 3:26. According to this passage, we are sons through faith. What does it mean to be a son or daughter of God?
 3. Read Galatians 4:7. We are no longer slaves but sons. In what ways do you feel like you are a son or daughter of God? Tell about an experience when God reminded you that you’re His son or daughter.
 4. Read Romans 8:16–17. In what ways are we heirs of Christ? What are some things we inherit as God’s children?
 5. Allow time for members of the group to share about areas of their life in which God has redeemed them.

Live: This week, let’s each commit to starting our day with a declaration to let Jesus be the “driver” of our lives. For the next week, before we even get out of bed, let’s each begin the day by saying this prayer: “Heavenly Father, I fully submit myself and this day to You. Lead me and guide me by Your Holy Spirit. Teach me how to live my life dependent upon You and fully empowered by Your precious Holy Spirit. Take my weaknesses today and turn them into your strengths. And I give You all the glory and the honor for all that You’ve done and are going to do. Amen.”

Pray: Take 2–4 minutes to wait quietly on the Lord and ask Him to reveal areas in your life that you still feel like you are in the driver’s seat and not Jesus. Take time to ask the Holy Spirit into that area of your life. Break into small groups and pray for God to give each of us a deeper revelation on His Grace and to give us a deeper revelation of how Jesus paid the price for us to walk in complete freedom as his children.