



THE INVITATION

GOD ALWAYS MOVES FIRST

Opening Thoughts

_____ relationships are a part of living in a _____ world.

From the moment sin created a gap between God and man, God has been moving toward us to close that gap.

1. God gave the first _____.

Genesis 3:8-9, 15

Religion says: "If you can just get your life _____ up, maybe God will _____ you."

The Gospel says: "God came _____ for you while you were _____."

Before man ever deserved another chance, God already had a plan for _____.

God doesn't wait for broken people to _____ Him. He always moves _____ them.

2. _____ IS the invitation.

John 1:14; Luke 19:5-7 & 10; Matthew 11:28; John 14:6

3. The _____ is the new messenger.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

The _____ is God's. The _____ is ours.

We don't just _____ people to church. We _____ people to church.

Nobody who had experienced _____ ever kept Him to _____.

Sometimes, bringing people to Church is simply the first step in helping them _____ Jesus.

God wants to make His _____ to others, through you!

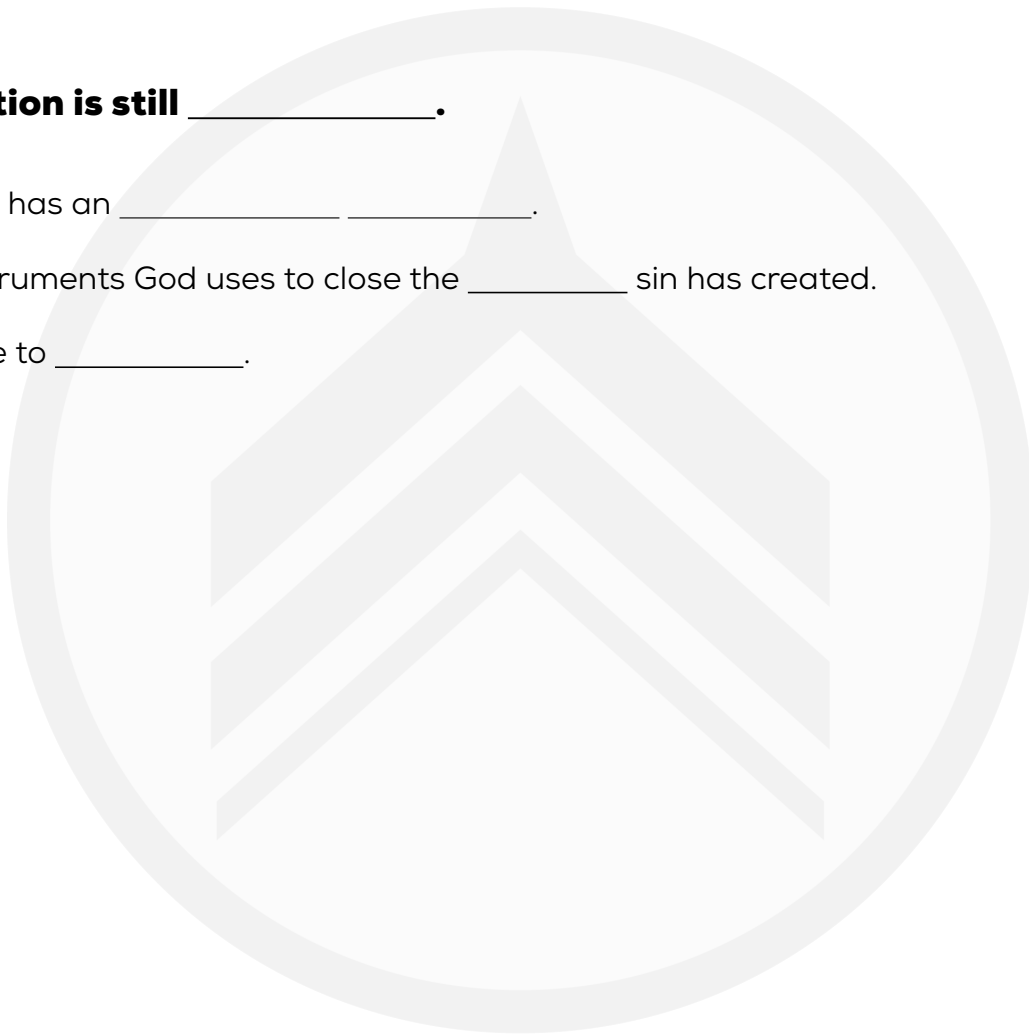
4. The invitation is still _____.

Revelation 22:17-21

Every invitation has an _____.

We are the instruments God uses to close the _____ sin has created.

Let's get people to _____.



LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

FIRST THINGS FIRST

1. If you could receive an invitation to any event in history, what would it be? (The Last Supper, signing of the Declaration of Independence, Super Bowl, moon landing, your favorite band's concert, etc.)
2. What's one invitation you've received that you're really glad you accepted?

DIGGING DEEP

1. Read Genesis 3:8-15. Jeremy repeatedly asked the question, "Who moved?" What does God's pursuit of Adam teach us about His character?
2. Jeremy contrasted religion and the Gospel by saying: *"Religion says, 'If you can just get your life cleaned up...maybe God will accept you.' The Gospel says, 'God came looking for you while you were hiding.'"* Why is that distinction so important? How have you seen people confuse the two?
3. Read Luke 19:1-10. What stands out to you about the way Jesus treated Zacchaeus? Why do you think the religious leaders struggled with Jesus moving toward someone they viewed as a sinner?
4. Jeremy said, "Jesus didn't simply bring the invitation—Jesus IS the invitation." What does that statement mean? How does it help us understand the purpose of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? Which part of that passage stands out to you the most?
6. Jeremy said, "The invitation is God's. The delivery is ours." How does that perspective remove pressure while still giving us responsibility?
7. Read Revelation 22:17-20. The Bible begins and ends with God inviting people to Himself. What does that tell us about God's heart toward humanity?

TAKE IT HOME

1. Who was the person (or people) God used to invite you toward Jesus? Take a moment to thank God for them, and if possible, consider reaching out to thank them this week.
2. Who is one person God may be asking you to move toward this week? What is one practical step you can take to begin that conversation?
3. Jeremy reminded us, *"You don't have to have all the answers. You don't have to preach a sermon. You simply get to deliver the invitation."* What's one fear that keeps you from inviting others to Jesus? How does Sunday's message encourage you to move past that fear?
4. Jeremy reminded us that "The invitation is God's. The delivery is ours." Who is one person or family you believe God wants you to invite to Open House this week? What is your plan for inviting them?