



Welcome to the INVITE Churchwide Campaign!

John 4:35 (NIV)
“I tell you, open your eyes
and look at the fields!
They are ripe for harvest.”

Week One:
I _____ your THEMs

Matthew 28:19-20 (CEV), “Go to the people of all nations and make THEM my disciples. Baptize THEM in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach THEM to do everything I have told you.”

Why does Jesus have to command us
to open our eyes?

1. We think, “It’s _____ job.”
2. We don’t see the Lordship of Jesus as the world’s greatest _____.
3. We’re distracted with our own _____.



Complete the following statement and explain your answer to the group: *When I think of sharing my faith with someone it makes me feel:*

excited

anxious

intimidated

guilty

frustrated

overwhelmed

apathetic

other: _____

The first step in the INVITE Strategy is: **“Identify your THEMs.”** Let’s look first at the last part of that sentence (“THEMs”). Then we’ll look at the first part of the sentence (“Identify”).

Identify your **THEMs**

Read Matthew 28:17-20.

When the Bible uses the word “them” in these verses, to whom is it referring?

Pastor Tom said we have to identify our “THEMs” if we are going to personally apply these verses. What is a THEM?

Make a list of the places you’re likely to find *your* THEMs.

How significant is the fact that Matthew 28:17-20 are the last words Jesus spoke in Matthew’s Gospel?

We call Matthew 28:17-20 “the Great Commission.” What is a commission?

Why do you think the Great Commission intimidates many Christians?

How should our intimidation be relieved by the phrase “all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth” in verse 18 and by the phrase “I am with you always” in verse 20?

Identify your THEMs

Have someone summarize the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4:1-26.

After the summary, have someone read John 4:28-35.

Where was Jesus directing his disciples’ attention when he told them to open their eyes?

Why do you think their eyes failed to see the things that Jesus saw that day at the outskirts of that Samaritan town?

Just like the disciples, we can be in fellowship with Jesus and yet fail to see the world as he sees it. Pastor Tom suggested three common reasons why this is so.

**First Reason for Our Blindness:
We think it’s someone else’s job**

Do you think reaching people for Christ is better left to those who are “good at that kind of thing?” Why or why not?

**Second Reason for Our Blindness:
We don’t see Jesus as the world’s greatest good**

To claim that Jesus is the only way to God strikes many people as narrow-minded and intolerant. How can we answer that objection?

How has Jesus been your greatest good?

**Third Reason for Our Blindness:
We're distracted by our own pains, plans, and pleasures**

Define "pains" in the above sentence. For example, a hospital stay. Now list some more.

Define "plans" in the above sentence. For example, saving for a big trip. Now list some more.

Define "pleasures" in the above sentence. For example, golf. Now list some more.

Are Christians guilty of letting pains, plans, and pleasures eclipse the Great Commission?

How could your pains, plans and pleasures be a *platform* to fulfill the Great Commission?

As you prepare your group's prayer list, pray for God to open your eyes to your THEMs this week.



Close with praise reports and prayer requests