

The INVITE Strategy

Week Six: Encourage THEM to Cross the Line of Faith



Act 4:13-20

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply. But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they began to confer with one another, saying, "What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is

apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name." And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Use the following space to take notes during the sermon



Have you ever been given poor instructions on a school assignment or a work project? How did it make you feel as the deadline approached? How did it make you feel to hear the teacher or the boss criticize you for doing a poor job on a task that had been poorly communicated?

It's important we know how to explain the gospel clearly. It's the sixth step in the "INVITE" Strategy.

Before we look at the sixth step, review the first five steps we've studied in the previous week. Complete each blank below and describe the action:

I _____ your THEMs
N _____ a relationship with THEM
V _____ their spiritual condition
I _____ THEM with your church family
T _____ THEM your story

Today we'll focus on the last step:

E _____ THEM to cross the line of faith

Read Acts 4:13-20.

Today Dr. Matt Queen preached from these verses. He talked about having **confidence** to share our faith. Answer the following questions:

- ❖ Do you wish you had more confidence to share your faith with others?
- ❖ Sometimes as Christians we try to build our confidence by gaining more information. But Dr. Queen said that confidence has to come from *whom* we know before it can come from *what* we know. What does that mean? Discuss whether you agree or disagree with the statement.

Dr. Queen talked about the “Gospel Essentials.” In other words, if it’s the *gospel* that we’re sharing, there are certain topics that must be included. From the following list, mark which topics need to be included in a gospel presentation:

- We’re sinners
- Ball caps shouldn’t be worn in the sanctuary
- We can’t fix our sin problem ourselves
- America won’t get on track until we vote the right way
- In love, God took the initiative to re-unite us with him
- My Bible translation is the best
- Jesus carried away my sin in his death and resurrection
- The earth was created in six days about six thousand years ago
- I’m saved when I surrender in faith to what Jesus did for me

Dr. Queen recommended scriptures to use when you share the gospel. Answer these questions:

- ❖ What is the value of quoting scripture?
- ❖ Recall some of the scriptures he recommended.

Divide into groups of two and each of you take the time to explain the gospel to the other. Feel free to use the space below if you are drawing an illustration in your gospel explanation:

(Questions continue on the other side)

Now that you've had a chance to practice sharing the gospel with someone in your Life Group, bring the group back together and discuss the following:

- ❖ What part of your gospel explanation do you think could use a little more work?
- ❖ If you've made an effort to explain the gospel to a nonbeliever in the past, describe the experience with the group. Did it go well? If you had a chance to do it again, would you do it differently? How?

Discuss how the following can be barriers to effective witness, and discuss how we can overcome them:

- ❖ Prejudices the culture has against Christians
- ❖ Compromised Christian behavior
- ❖ Spiritual apathy

As you make your group's prayer list today, include the names of your THEMs, and ask for greater *confidence* to share your faith.



Close with praise reports and prayer requests