

What's the greatest party or event you've ever been invited to?

Answer:

Answer:

What information should be included in an invitation?

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT



Leaders need followers. Without them, leaders are just crazy people striking out on their own, spinning their wheels to make something happen all by themselves. The thing is, getting people to follow you is difficult and intimidating. It's easy to think of all the things that could go wrong. *What if my idea is bad? What if they don't finish what they promise? What if they think I'm bossy and I lose our friendship? I'd rather just do it myself...*

Thankfully, we have an example in Jesus. When he calls his disciples—his followers—he doesn't just ask them, he invites them. Here are the two critical elements of his great invitation that we can emulate:

- 1. He invites them to join him.** When in leadership, does your communication give the vibe that you enjoy telling people what to do or that you enjoy inviting people to join you in doing something meaningful? When Jesus says, "Follow me," he's saying that he will be there every step of the journey; he will show them the way (Matt. 4:19). Every great invitation must have the element of relationship. Are your followers going to achieve something with you, or do you just want them to complete a task for you?
- 2. He casts vision for impact.** "I will make you fishers of men," (Matt.4:19). Jesus doesn't stop at giving a clear command, he gives the disciples a glimpse into their future. He is going to take them from who they are (fishermen on the Sea of Galilee) to something greater (fishers of men, followers of the Son of God). When you extend an invitation, you must cast a clear vision for the future. Invite people in such a way that shows them what impact they could have, how their life could change, and how they can contribute to God's kingdom. When people hear that their participation is that important, they're much more likely to be all-in.

Read Matthew 4:18–22 and answer the following questions.

Answer:

What scares you the most about inviting others to follow your leadership?

When have you been most inspired to follow someone?

At this moment in your leadership, would your followers say that they feel like they're working with you or for you?

Would your followers say that they have a vision for what kind of impact they're having?

A SECOND LOOK



What does it feel like to receive a great invitation? Well, typically, it feels like these three things:

1. **Thrill of being wanted.** Whether you enjoy a fiery game of dodgeball or not, everyone likes to be picked first. When you're picked first, you know you're wanted. You know you're important. When a leader extends a great invitation, followers should feel like they're getting picked first, like they're a big deal.
2. **Desire to meet potential.** In theatre, call-backs are a huge deal. After an audition, certain people will be asked to return so that the drama directors can get a better look at what they can do. When they finally get the part, the director is saying, "I see in you the potential to play this character excellently." When you extend an invitation, do your followers know that you see potential in them to grow in exciting ways?
3. **Feeling valued for uniqueness.** In every great heist movie, each specific character has a specific job to do. There's the mad-scientist engineer, the sneaky martial arts expert, the get-away-car driver, and the cool, calm, and collected ring-leader. A great invitation should make the follower feel like they have a unique contribution to make. What skill or ability do they bring to the table that no one else does?

In essence, people will follow when you show them value and appreciation. Invitations don't feel like a chore to be done; they feel like playing an important role in an important opportunity.

Answer:

What unique abilities do you have that you would like for other people to see and appreciate?

What kind of value—either in special abilities or potential—do you currently see in the people on your team?

On a scale of 1 to 4 (1= I could go out and do this today, 4= this sounds really difficult) how difficult will it be for you to invite other people in this way?

What can you do to grow in this area?

APPLY IT



Pick one task that needs to be done—especially if that task is a leadership opportunity for you—and follow Jesus' example by inviting at least one person to join you.

Be specific:

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

THINK ABOUT IT

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?" – David Livingstone

MEMORIZE/MEDITATE ON THIS VERSE

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28 (ESV)