

8 Steps to an Effective Public Invitation to Follow Christ

1. Raise a need.

Loneliness, lack of peace, lack of purpose, fear of death, need for forgiveness, guilt, hopelessness, and insecurity. These are some of the top needs met by the gospel.

2. Explain sin. (Romans 3:23)

In Greek the word for sin (HAMARTIA) means "to miss the mark."

3. Explain the solution. (Romans 6:23) Christ's substitutionary death on the Cross.

4. Consider a testimony.

Hearing how you or someone else received Christ. Learning how Christ changed you helps a person imagine what will happen if they receive Christ, too.

5. Describe some benefits of coming to Christ.

Describe the sense of peace or forgiveness or the presence of God or assurance of a home in heaven, etc.

6. Invite people to receive Christ by praying a model prayer.

Invite people to Christ with a question like:

"How many of you would like to pray a prayer like this with me: 'Lord Jesus, I invite you into my life today. I admit I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I am inviting you to be my Savior right now?'"

Invite people to pray that prayer after you by repeating the prayer either aloud or silently while you pray it again.

7. Provide Immediate Follow-up

"While your heads are still bowed, I'd like to know how many of you prayed that prayer with me so I can celebrate with you. Would you raise your hand for a minute if you prayed that prayer?"

Say "Good for you," to each one. "Please keep your hands up for a minute. I have a friend who is going to come to where you are. He or she will give you a packet with some materials that will help you with this new relationship you have just begun."

Once everyone has a packet, close with prayer. Rejoice with them. Tell them they are now part of the family of God. Tell them that the angels in heaven are rejoicing with them. (Luke 15:10)

Finally, say "If you prayed that prayer with me, I'd like you to do two things. One is check the box on your Connection Card that reads, 'I received Christ today.' Put that in the offering when it comes around.

The other is, when the service is over, please remain in your seat for just two minutes. Someone will find you to briefly go through the materials in your packet to help you start your new relationship with Jesus well."

Suggested Contents for a New Believers Packet:

- **A New Testament** This is preferable to a full Bible so that new believers immediately begin reading about Jesus. Once they have been Christians for a while, encourage them to acquire a complete Bible.
- **A Spiritual Birth Certificate** - You might want to create one like the sample below, with a place for the pastor to sign and date it. This will document the decision and give your evangelism team member an avenue for introducing the new believer to the pastor.
- **The first piece of your follow-up material.** This might be new believer training like that published by Campus Crusade, the Navigators and other Christian publishers. Select proven, time-tested materials for these important first lessons of faith. If no materials are available in your area or language, consider creating a series of three or four new believer lessons that you can use. Also share them with others. These might cover Bible based lessons on:
 - A review of the plan of salvation.
 - Assurance of salvation.
 - How to grow in Christ.

As the service closes, have each of your evangelism team members introduce themselves to someone with a follow-up packet. The pastor might say,

"Just before we close in prayer, I would ask that all of you who received a packet today remain in your seat for just two minutes after the prayer. Someone will come to you and explain what's in it, and how to begin your new life."

The evangelism team member should

- Show them the New Testament, taking them to the book of Luke. Encourage the new believer to start reading a portion every day, reading through Luke to the end of that book.
- Show them the follow-up/discipleship material. Arrange a time to get together to go through it. Men should meet with men, women with women.
- Show them their Spiritual Birth Certificate. Congratulate them. Take them to the pastor so he can sign and date it. This gives you the chance to introduce them to the pastor, publicly acknowledge their faith, and get to be celebrated by their new pastor.

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8. Encourage them to take their next steps.

Further follow-up depends on your church's follow-up system that will be covered later in this training

New Believer Birth Certificate

Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved -**Romans 10:13**. Because I have confessed that Jesus is my Lord and believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead, I am saved. -**Romans 10:9-10**. I believe, therefore I am saved and born again. My sins are all forgiven. -**1 John 2:12** and I am a child of God -**John 1:12**. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus -**Romans 8:1**. The Holy Spirit has sealed me and now indwells me -**Ephesians 1:13-14**. I have eternal life because Jesus has saved me by His perfect life, atoning death and His Resurrection from the dead -**Corinthians 15:1-4**.

Jesus has saved me by His grace, through faith on this
_____ day of _____, 20____

I am a new creation -**2 Corinthians 5:17** - and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me -**Galatians 2:20**. God, who began the good work within me will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again -**Philippians 1:6**.

Signed: _____

