

Make Invitations Debrief Guide

INSTRUCTIONS

These debrief guides have been provided to summarize the objectives, takeaways, and opportunities for discussion as you equip and develop your CSM. The guide is designed to provide options instead of a prescriptive step-by-step for each course. Each of the Reflection Questions are taken directly from the course, while the Discipleship Moments provide opportunities for practical ministry development based on the course content.

Here are some decisions you might make as you determine how to use it with a CSM:

- If discussing the whole course together in **one sitting**, select 2-3 Reflection Questions and one Discipleship Moment to work on together. You might ask the CSM which sections were most intriguing or most challenging and tailor your approach to their interests, or you might identify sections you think would be most helpful, depending on their current strengths and gaps in skills.
- If you want to spend **several sessions** discussing the course and working on it in-depth with your CSM, devote a separate session for each chapter of the course. Discuss the Reflection Questions first in your meeting, then work on one Discipleship Moment together each time. Your CSM should implement their work from the Discipleship Moment before your next 1:1 and discuss what happened.
- Use the Next Steps suggestions at the end of the guide to identify 1-2 appropriate applications with your CSM after you finish discussing the course.

COURSE: Make Invitations  45 min

Develop a hospitable culture that makes it easy for seekers and believers alike to be a part of the community and take their next steps in.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the components of a healthy culture of invitations
- Assess the current state of your ministry's culture of invitation
- Learn how to coach compelling invitations
- Study practical strategies to address barriers to making invitations

PREREQUISITE: Inviting Well

Your supervisee should have a solid understanding of the following concepts from "Inviting Well" before moving on to this course.

- Identify the qualities of a compelling invitation
- Understand how to craft an effective invitation
- Demonstrate how to handle different responses to your invitations

COURSE TAKEAWAYS

- As ministry leaders we can cultivate a healthy culture of invitation in our ministry, leaning on Jesus' example that runs counter to the anxious, frantic, and aggressive invitations that take place on campus, online, and in our broader culture.
- Our ability to model invitations, risk-taking, and dependence on God is vital to shaping the culture.
- We can coach and train our communities to make invitations that are personal and relevant—a blessing to those we invite.
- We use discernment to break through common barriers to invites; we invite God to be with us in the rejection and learn to celebrate faithfulness, regardless of the response.

DEBRIEF OPPORTUNITIES

| | Reflection Questions | Discipleship Moments |
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| Chapter 2: Toward a Healthy Culture of Invitations | <p>Lesson 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you feel today about making invitations? Good? Bad? Excited? Exhausted? • Think back on the people who made an impact on you for good—What was attractive about their life? What compelled you to listen to them? How and why did they invite you into new steps and risks? <p>Lesson 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on a past experience when you extended an invitation: did it come from a place of urgency or genuine connection? How did that experience make you feel, and how did the recipient respond? • In your current community, where do you see signs of a healthy culture of invitations? Where might there be areas of improvement or indicators of an unhealthy approach? | <p>Lesson 2</p> <p>Study the gospel passages illustrating Jesus’ ministry together and discuss the reflection questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is resonating with you from Jesus' example? • Which of these invitations have you received from Jesus in the past? • Which invitations is he inviting you to right now? Spend some time in prayer. <p>Make a plan for your CSM to complete the “Reflections on Jesus’ Invitations Activity” with a group of students, then debrief the experience together.</p> |
| Chapter 3: Coaching Compelling Invitations | <p>Lesson 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think of the next significant round of invitations your community is doing. Which of the above activities would be most helpful? When will you make time to help your team plan their invitations? <p>Lesson 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which invitations has God been inviting you and your community to make? Take a moment to reflect on what God’s done in your life through these invitations. • Consider a discipleship opportunity that might come up often in your ministry. What cues could you give your community to help them recognize the opportunity to make an invitation? Try to craft two or three for your chosen discipleship opportunity. | <p>Lesson 2</p> <p>Discuss the case study together, then make a plan for your CSM to lead the case study with one or more students. The “Customized Invitations” handout is a good tool for this; you could also use the handout to help your CSM write their own customized invitations for students. Debrief the experience at your next 1:1. The chapter contains a series of coaching questions that could guide your discussion.</p> |
| Chapter 4: Barriers to Invitations | <p>Lesson 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It’s not that rare for people to have poor reasons for avoiding good opportunities. What are some smokescreens you’ve seen? Or generated yourself? <p>Lesson 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When is the last time you ghosted someone or needed multiple invitations before you | <p>Lesson 1</p> <p>Work through the Invitation Triage Continuum together for an upcoming event, such as a prayer night, a conference, or a retreat. Work through the barriers and develop possible responses together, then follow up with your CSM at your next 1:1 to see</p> |

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| | <p>made a decision/commitment? What do you think caused this to happen in your case?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the concept of a “Clean Up Note.” How does this feel to your CSM? When might it be useful? | <p>how their invitations went. The content in lessons 2-4 will help as your CSM completes the exercise. There is also a leader’s guide if your CSM wants to try the same exercise with their students.</p> <p>Lesson 6 Extend the learning from the Invitation Triage Continuum exercise by completing either the 2+ Prayer Card or the Network Mapping exercise together.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 5: Dealing with Rejection</p> | <p>Lesson 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was an experience of rejection you recently had in ministry? Use the prayer exercise in the chapter to process it together. <p>Lesson 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify one or two behaviors, one or two attitudes, and one or two beliefs that you think could be useful for your invitation community in the face of rejection. For bonus points, jot down some ideas for how to support the behaviors, cultivate the attitudes, and encourage those beliefs. For double-secret bonus points, read other people’s responses and dialogue with them. | <p>Lesson 3 Ask your CSM about a recent ministry-related invitation that someone they know made. It could even be an invitation they made to them! Have the CSM send that person a text to say they were thinking about that today and feel ____ (fill in the blank, but we’d encourage you to put something positive and encouraging).</p> |

NEXT STEPS

- Assess your community’s culture of invitations. How are you doing? What can you learn from how Jesus made invitations? Take this [self-assessment](#) on making invitations.
- Identify the next steps to level up your community’s culture of invitations. What new behaviors, attitudes, or beliefs would be helpful?
- Prioritize one or two invitational barriers. Figure out how you can address them as a ministry leader, either for yourself or in your community.
- Make time to spend with God processing. Reflect on your own feelings about rejection and leading your community in celebrating the invitation (regardless of response).