

JUNE 4 & 5

INVITING PEOPLE IN

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INTRODUCTION

Being invitational is one of our core values here at Prairie Lakes Church. Just as God invited us into His family, He asks us to be invitational and include others. No one meets and follows Jesus without being included by someone, so we should always be looking for ways to invite friends, families and co-workers into our circles. Summer's relaxed pace of life gives us more opportunities to do just that. As we enter this season of sun and fun, we are looking at the practice of INCLUDE--inviting others into my life so they can see Jesus at work in me.

DISCUSSION

1. Who were the people in your life who opened the door, made room at their table and invited you into their lives? How did they affect your faith life?
2. **Read John 1:35-50 and Luke 5:27-29.** What do you see in common between these two passages? What simple invitational message repeats throughout the verses? How can we use this method to be invitational in our circles?
3. In **Matthew 22:34-40**, we are commanded to "love your neighbor as yourself." How do we know Jesus loved His neighbor as Himself? What does that look like in a Christian's life?

THINK ABOUT IT

Including creates a community. This [commentary](#) comes from a person who hosted a pastor from Cambodia.

"One of things Pastor Abraham found disturbing about America was that no free tea was offered for breakfast or lunch in diners or food establishments. In Cambodia, one would walk into a noodle shop, sit at a table with other people, drink free tea and actually talk to those other people. He noticed what a highly individualized society America was as opposed to a more community based Cambodia. We leave our houses that are hidden by fences, trees and woods, and drive alone to our job where we work in our office or cubicle until we head alone back down the highway to our isolated houses that could hold many Cambodians [Isn't it lonely with only a husband, wife and a couple of kids in that big house?] He was not so much being critical as he was lamenting the way things are for us in our way of life."

DO SOMETHING

1. God may have already placed a name upon your heart. If so, pray, asking Him to guide your next steps. If not, pray, seeking which neighbors to include in your life.
2. Either as a small group or a family, plan an invitational event to gather your neighbors this summer.

For more information, email grouplife@prairielakeschurch.org