"RE-ENVISION" COMBINED VINE

8-22-2021

• PART 1: BIBLICAL CULTURE OF INVITATION AND HOSPITALITY.

- o The Great Banquet (Luke 14:16-24)
- A culture of invitation.
 - The king desires to have his banquet hall filled.
 - Invitation drives attendance.
 - Invitation requires messengers.
 - Some will say "no".
 - "No" answers don't stop the invitations.
- A culture of hospitality.
 - The banquet is free.
 - The banquet is great.
 - The lowest citizens are treated as worthy as the elite.
 - The banquet hall is expected to be full.
 - Rejection doesn't cause regret.

Questions

- How do you think it would feel to be in the place of the invitees from the streets, lanes, highways, and hedges as they received the invitation and as they attended the banquet?
- Why does the Bible place so much value on invitation and hospitality?

• PART 2: INVITATION.

 "If our people are not active witnesses, inviters, and lovers of the people in their lives, those people will most often never wander their way into a church." (You Found Me)

o Practices.

- Pray for connections.
- Utilize social media.
- Don't stop with one ask.
- Make it a "come with" or "meet you there" invitation.
- Match the invite to the person.
- What's the worst that could happen?
- Don't take "no" personally.

Questions:

- If you have invited someone to a church program or event, what was the experience like? Did that person attend, and did they come back for something else?
- To what kind of event or program is it easiest to invite someone?
- What ideas can we share about making contacts where invitation is possible?

• PART 3: HOSPITALITY.

- "In other words, the biblical tradition of hospitality practiced across various cultures and various times has long been understood to be intertwined with the proclamation of the gospel. It is a reenactment of our own faith and one of the most tangible manifestations to an unbelieving world that we have been brought close to God through God's Son." (You Found Me)
- o Five commitments.
 - Recognize the image of God in everyone.
 - Respect the reality of other people's lives and experiences.
 - Listen to other people's stories.
 - Look for goodness in everyone.
 - Don't accuse of ill-will people who may look or think differently.
- Three Practices.
 - One eye in and one eye out: Talk with your friends, but still be aware of who's around you. Let's all agree it is okay to stop a conversation to speak to a stranger.
 - Serve: Find out what a person needs for a good experience and help meet their needs.
 - Follow-up: Invites to other activities and introductions to others and the staff.
- o One assignment.
 - Meet your one: Try to meet a new person (to you) each Sunday.

Questions:

- When have you experienced good hospitality?
- What about that experience made it so valuable?
- What is it about poor hospitality that feels so negative?