

Team Training: Cultivating a Culture of Invitation

Taste and See — A Ministry Team Discussion Guide

Goal: Help your ministry team embrace invitation as a natural, ongoing part of their lives and leadership.

Approximate Time: 40–60 minutes

Facilitator Note: This guide is designed to help your team not just reflect, but take action. Create space for honesty, keep the tone encouraging (not guilt-driven), and end with clear next steps.

1. START WITH STORY — 5–10 MINUTES

Teaching Points:

- Invitation — not information — is often what changes something in us
- Most of us can name the person who helped us first taste and see that God is good
- That memory is worth sitting with before we talk about anything else

Say something like: *"Psalm 34:8 says, 'Taste and see that the Lord is good.' That's not just a personal invitation — it's a picture of what we're called to do for the people around us. We've tasted. We've seen. And the people in our lives deserve that same chance. That's what today is about — how we become the kind of people who invite others to taste and see for themselves. We're going to look at why we hesitate, how to reframe what invitation actually is, and how to leave today with one real next step. But before we get practical, I want to start with something personal."*

"Before we talk about how to invite others, I want us to go back to our own stories for a minute. Most of us didn't come to faith — or come deeper in faith — because of a program or a perfectly structured argument. Someone invited us into something. Think about who that person was for you — what they did, what they said, or maybe just how they lived. We're going to start there."

Discussion Questions

1. Who in your life helped you "taste and see" that God is good?

2. UNDERSTAND THE MISSION — 5-10 MINUTES

Teaching Points:

- God has always been relational — He pursues, restores, and draws near
- He chooses to use people to reach people
- Your relationships, conversations, and invitations are part of how someone else may come to know Him

Say something like: *“Let’s look at what Scripture says about this. I’d like someone to read one or two of these passages out loud.” [Read passages.] “God doesn’t just save us and let us settle in. He sends us. Invitation isn’t an add-on to the Christian life — it is the Christian life. You are part of how someone else may come to taste and see that the Lord is good.”*

Have someone read one or two of these passages out loud:

Psalms 34:8 · 2 Corinthians 5:20 · Matthew 28:19–20 · Romans 10:14–15

Discussion Questions

1. What do these verses show us about God’s heart for people?

3. IDENTIFY THE GAP — 10 MINUTES

Teaching Points:

- Most of us believe in invitation more than we practice it
- We get caught in schedules, comfort, and fear of awkwardness
- Without realizing it, we become passive in something that was never meant to be passive

Say something like: *“Here’s a hard truth — many of us attend, and even lead, in ministry spaces without ever inviting anyone else in. Most of the time it’s not because we don’t care. It’s because we’ve settled into our comfort zone and quietly lost sight of the mission. We make assumptions: ‘They’d never come.’ ‘They’re too busy.’ ‘I’ve asked before.’ Sometimes fear of rejection gets in the way. Whatever the reason, the first step is naming it honestly. You can’t push back against a mindset you haven’t recognized yet.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think we hesitate to invite others into our everyday lives, church, or ministry?
2. What makes that hard for you personally?

4. REFRAME INVITATION — 5-10 MINUTES

Teaching Points:

- Invitation feels big because we imagine it has to be
- Invitation doesn't require a new opportunity or the perfect words — it just requires intention
- You are not promoting an event — you are opening a door
- You're already going. The question is just who you're bringing with you.

Say something like: *"Think about where you already go each week — church, your small group, your ministry team, a Bible study. You're already there. You're already benefiting from what God is doing in those spaces. Invitation isn't about adding something new to your schedule or finding the perfect moment or the perfect words. It's simply about bringing someone with you into something you're already a part of. The opportunity is already built into your life."*

Discussion Questions

1. How does this reframe change your perspective on invitation?

5. MAKE IT PRACTICAL — 10 MINUTES

Teaching Points:

- Intention without specificity rarely becomes action
- Real places, real people, real words — that's what turns a good conversation into actual follow-through

Say something like: *"It's easy to have a conversation like this — agree that invitation matters, feel inspired — and then go home and not do anything differently. So before we leave today, we're going to get specific. In your discussion time, you'll think about where you already go each week and who you already see. Then I want you to identify one person and one step you can take to intentionally invite that person into your spiritual life."*

Discussion Questions

1. Where are you already going each week?
2. Who can you invite to join you?
3. When will you invite them and how will you do it? Think about what you will say and how you will deliver the invitation.

6. COMMIT + PRAY — 5-10 MINUTES

Teaching Points:

- You don't need the perfect words — you just need to show up
- One invitation can open a door you didn't know was there
- Bring what you have and trust God with the rest

Say something like: *"You've already identified a person and a next step. Now let's bring that before the Lord together. Take a quiet moment to think about the name — or names — God has placed on your heart. Then we'll close in prayer."*

Lead the group in prayer covering: boldness to reach out, creativity in how to make invitations feel natural, open hearts for the people God has placed on your mind, sensitivity to the Spirit's leading, and clarity in next steps.