

A Time for Learning

Church Conference 2017

Estimates are that 80 – 85% of the people that live in any given community in our state don't attend church regularly.

Inviting

- ✚ People outside the church are generally as afraid of going to a new church for the first time, as they are afraid to get up and speak in public.
- ✚ People are open to an invitation to church from someone they know and trust.
- ✚ People are more open to an invitation when they are going through a time of transition.
 - The birth of a child
 - The death of a loved one
 - A move to a new community
 - A change of job
 - A child going to school / college
 - A change in the family (divorce or wedding)
 - Other
- ✚ Don't be afraid to witness to your faith and what God is doing for you, while you are sharing coffee / soda / a meal with a friend or a family member.

Welcoming – Items to keep in mind for a church

- ✚ A guest will decide within ____ minutes if they are open to returning to a church.
- ✚ Welcoming guests in a way that is genuine / real is very important.
- ✚ Greeters / ushers are a good place to start, invite greeters and ushers who are welcoming.
- ✚ Consider where you have your greeters and ushers.
- ✚ Examples of how to be welcoming . . .
 - Smiling
 - Saying hello
 - Introducing yourself
 - When you meet a guest, find a way to connect them with another (invite them to the Fellowship Time)
 - Expect God to send new guests.
 - Remember, God sent them to your church home. Welcome a guest at church as you would welcome a guest into your home.
- ✚ Examples of how NOT to be welcoming . . .
 - Ignore guests.
 - Be mad when they sit in your pew.
- ✚ During worship, identify anyone you might not know around you. Then immediately when worship is done, please great these people (if they are a guest, they will most likely leave the church within three minutes).
- ✚ Have a system to follow up with guests within 24 hours.
 - Lay people or Pastor / staff follow up?

- If guest attends church and someone follows up on them, they will think about their faith 5-7 times during the following week. If no follow up, they will think about their faith 1-3 times.