

SEE IT

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in".

OBEY IT

Eventually God will open doors to invite people to church. When that happens, remember:

1. **Inviting is more effective when it's done in the context of relationships.** We get invited all the time through emails, flyers, or TV advertising with various degrees of success. Nothing beats an invitation from a friend. I invite you to maximize the relationships you already have. Remember to invite **F.R.A.N.C.** That stands for friends, relatives, associates, neighbors, coworkers.
2. **Inviting is more effective when you know "why."** The invitation you are about to give can in fact bring the following three benefits: (1) it can change a life; (2) it can transform a family's history; (3) it can advance God's kingdom. The disciples knew why. Our pioneers knew why. Do you know why?

SHARE IT

1. **Trash Pick-up for Students near Campuses:** Consider visiting on Sunday afternoons around two, so you'll catch everybody waking up from their Saturday nights.
2. **Post Cards and Stamps:** College students do actually write home on occasion. Provide postcards complete with postage with a sticker that reads, "It's good to write your mom!" Include your connection card.
3. **Photocopying:** Purchase photocopying coupons at a reduced rate at a local copy center near the college campus. The price shouldn't be more than about five cents per copy. Give these punch cards out on campus. Place church logo and phone number on the card.

My Prayer Today:

Jesus, help me bold enough to invite people, loving enough to do it, and discerning enough to know when to do it. Amen.

My Thoughts _____

SEE IT

Jonah 1:1 The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: ² "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are."³ But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the LORD by sailing to Tarshish.

OBEY IT

Jonah was an interesting character. He was doing his thing, in a small town. Solid guy. Faithful. Constant. Then God (as he usually does) messed up his plans. He called him to change 3 things:

1. **Change in location.** Jonah was a good small parish pastor. He had family in town. He was well liked. He knew the people and the people knew him. Then God "ruins" his best laid plans. He told him to go where no one knew, liked, respected or was related to him, at great peril to his life. What if God did that to you? Would you go?
2. **Change in his ministry objective.** God told Jonah to change his target. He went from a small town prophet to a mission to the big city. Much like Jonah's contemporaries, we have also abandoned the cities. Instead of leaving the city, we must be loving the city. God gave him two reasons to go: a. It is a large city. (potential for great impact) b. It is wicked. (great need for God) That call hasn't changed. Large cities are not to be left alone. We must give the last warning.
3. **Change in strategy.** God told Jonah to "get up and go". That was strange. The people of Israel didn't "go". Others came. Others were invited in. You come to us, not us to you, was the modus operandi. God calls him to a paradigm shift. To a different strategy. He wanted Jonah to understand that our job is not only to bring people to church, but to take church to the people.

SHARE IT

1. Send a nice card to a family member, just because.
2. Don't lose any opportunity to say: i love you.
3. Leave a funny or kind note in an unexpected place.

My Prayer Today:

Lord, restore in me the passion to love the city where I live. To resolve to love them, not leave them. Amen.