

JOSH AND STEVE'S  
**GUIDE TO  
EASY  
INVITING**

You can actually have fun inviting someone to church



*Josh & Steve*  
**THE  
INVITATION  
GUYS**



←  
Josh

# INVITING PEOPLE TO CHURCH CAN BE FUN

## WHO ARE JOSH AND STEVE?

They're two regular guys who just happen to also be invitation superheros.

Josh used to get super nervous about inviting people to church, but Steve helps him and now he's an inviting machine!

Whether you're more like Josh or like Steve, they'll help you learn how to invite your family, neighbors, co-workers...and even strangers to church! Start by watching Josh and Steve's three mini-movies at [INVITEGUYS.COM](http://INVITEGUYS.COM), then go through this guide and before you know it, you'll have fun inviting someone to church.



Steve



## **INTRODUCTION FOR EXTROVERTS**

You're an extrovert, so really, talking to people and inviting them to church is your sweet spot. Before you go waving the banner of your local church, though, put on the brakes and take a moment to read this little book. Chances are you can come on a little strong when inviting people to the place that makes your heart beat. Never fear! We've got the steps, you have the passion. Together, we'll fill the seats.





## **INTRODUCTIONS FOR INTROVERTS**

Alright, so chances are you feel at a disadvantage. Typically, extroverted people are the ones that make it rain when it comes to inviting people to church; but where you avoid SHOUTING FROM THE ROOFTOPS around the people you love, you more than make up for by having intimate, one on one, caring conversations. You hear people, and people love that. So, get ready, because with our thoughtful tips and your ability to slow down and care for those around you, you're about to be the church-inviter of

your dreams. Seriously, they're going to put you on the cover of a magazine.

Remember, the main goal is to help draw people closer to Jesus. Inviting them to church is just one step on that journey. So, let's tackle some of the different opportunities you'll have throughout your day, week and year to build relationships, invite people to church and show them a God who truly loves them.

## **FINALLY**

In all seriousness, regardless of your personal makeup, we all have one thing in common when it comes to inviting people to church: God's help. Begin now by praying for opportunities to see people's needs and help point them to church and a relationship with Christ. Ask God to show you people you can be strategic to reach and remind you of events within your church like Easter and Christmas that



can be used as an invitation bridge. That first invitation can be the hardest, but ask for God's guidance and boldness; take a step of faith and use the booklet as a guide to help you in your journey of people drawing closer to God and inviting them to church.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

—Romans 1:16





# INVITING THE STRANGER

Josh & Steve  
**THE  
INVITATION  
GUYS**



**80%**  
of churchgoers  
say they first came  
because of an  
invitation

Alright, there's really no easy way for this not to be awkward. Inviting a stranger to church comes with a slew of possible responses or rejection. "What if they say no? What if they cuss me out or tell me I'm judgemental? What if they punch me in the face? I'm not prepared for that, especially the pain of the punch!" Here's the deal, any of those responses could very well occur (though the punching is highly unlikely), but there just might be a moment, a meeting, or a party you're attending where God gives you an opportunity to invite someone to church. So, what do you do in that moment? We've got your back.

**FIRST**, if you're feeling the nudge to invite someone you just met to church, don't freak out. There's a good chance that nudge is for a reason. Instead of jumping right into the invite, continue (or strike up) a conversation to get to know them! You might just find a passion of theirs that lines up with the church. Are they a fan of great music?



Your church has some. Do they ride a motorcycle? Your church has a motorcycle small group. Are they fans of old-fashioned butter churning and looking for a community of like minded churners? Eh. Probably move on to the next conversation.

**SECONDLY**, lower your expectations. We've all seen the classic, youth group dramas where Alpha Male A meets Alpha Male B, invites him to church as Alpha Male B falls to the floor crying, because he, well, he just knows he needs God. Might happen. Probably won't. Inviting a stranger to church is as simple as asking, "Hey, if you're looking for a great community, people, and maybe you've got some questions about God, you're welcome to come to church with me this weekend." Simple answer, simple response.

**THIRD**, pray. In some situations you may never see this stranger again, but God will and does. If you strike out, no problem. You planted a seed. Write

their name down and pray God will bring someone of influence into their world to invite them to church and a life following Jesus.

Whether you're being intentional to meet strangers in coffee shops, grocery stores, or while getting a haircut, make yourself available to the people around you; and remember that striking up a conversation can be as easy as asking, "What church do you attend?" or, "Have you found a church yet?" These kinds of questions can be simple, un-awkward ways to steer the conversation with a stranger towards inviting them to your favorite church.



I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but  
God has been making it grow.

—1 Corinthians 3:5-6 NIV

# INVITING THE CO-WORKER



*Josh & Steve*  
**THE  
INVITATION  
GUYS**



Google sees around  
**30,000 SEARCHES**  
every month related to  
online church and church  
services online.

Chances are you know this person pretty well. After all, day in and day out you're navigating workplace bureaucracies we've all come to know and love. With managing those tensions, there's a good chance you've had an opportunity or two to, well, talk; and most likely you've been able to share good times, not-so-good times and even downright rough experiences with each other.

The beauty of being a part of your local church is that you've found wisdom, hope and healing through community and life-changing messages spoken on the weekend. Having experienced God's love through your church, you know your co-worker could benefit, too. Perhaps one of your "planning meetings" is a perfect place to offer some insight and an invitation that might be exactly what he or she wants and needs.

Here are just a few ways to go out-of-your-way and make sure you're available to serve your co-worker.

### **1. Be responsible**

No one wants to work with a lousy coworker. "Sorry, Stan. I wasn't able to turn in that report, because I was too busy watching cat fail videos."



#Lame. If you're going to have any influence at work, you gotta be dependable and liked; and we mean, "Hey, there's the guy who always brings cake to work," liked. So, put down that mid-morning fish taco, pause that video of the Chewbacca mom and let today be the first day of everyone calling you Trustworthy Tom. You know, if Tom is your real name.

## **2. Be available**

You can't have a chat if you're not around. So, look for opportunities to be just that: available. Invite your co-worker to lunch, or eat in the break room instead of at your desk. Maybe, just maybe, even offer to stay after work a bit to help wrap up a project. Being available will often lead to an opportunity to simply be helpful.

## **3. Be listening**

Relationships first, agendas never. This chapter isn't about checking all the boxes so people will listen to you. It's about you being there for others. So, when you're in a conversation about your coworker's family situation, stop thinking

about what you're going to say next and just listen. Most of the time people don't need advice, they just need a friend, someone to say, "I care enough to simply be here and listen to your struggle." Next time, say less and listen more.

#### **4. Be Ready**

Ask God to help provide an opportunity to make the invitation. He will. It might be to a sermon series you know your co-worker would enjoy, or an event that fits their style, but whatever the event, be ready as you partner with God to lead your co-worker closer to Him.

To conclude, yes, you love your church, and you'd love it if your co-worker was part of the same community you've come to love and find hope through—but always remember, Christ was about relationships first, and so are you. Use this amazing opportunity of constantly being around people at your job to show the love of Christ by being a responsible coworker and always being available to listen. It'll be a bonus when they come church with you.





# BONUS TIP!

One of the best ways to get your neighbor to come to church is to be an awesome neighbor! Nobody likes the guy who's yard looks like a junk yard, leaves his trash cans on the curb all week, paints their house hot pink and hasn't paid HOA dues in a year. So, don't be that neighbor.



Josh & Steve  
**THE  
INVITATION  
GUYS**

Josh & Steve

# THE INVITATION GUYS



# WHO SHOULD I INVITE TO CHURCH?



Inviting someone to church for the first time can be tricky, but even trickier if you don't know who to invite. Answer these questions to find the perfect person ready for you to invite to your church.

Do you know anyone?

YES

NO

Are you an Introvert or Extrovert?

Introvert

Extrovert



Do you have a pet?

YES!

NO

Do you have any offspring?

NO

Have you thought about joining a small group?

YES

Excellent! Now find one

Start with them to gain some momentum, then move to the final step

Do you LOVE PEOPLE?

YES

Are you excited to talk to strangers?

YES

Do you have access to a bus?

NO

Because you're going to need one for all the people you're about to invite and bring to church  
To help you get started, move to the final step.

Okay, you've got to get a puppy or something.

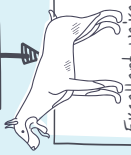
You're going to need some help.  
That's what this booklet is for!

CAT



Sorry, cats aren't allowed, but we still believe in you. Move on to the next step.

DOG



Excellent, we've got a reserved spot just for you! Now that you've invited your dog, move on to the next step!

Okay, you've gotta get a cute puppy or something. If that makes you anxious, try a kitten.  
In the meantime, move to the next step.



You too can be  
a church-inviting  
superhero!



Watch all three  
Josh and Steve  
mini-movies at

[www.InviteGuys.com](http://www.InviteGuys.com)

# INVITING THE FACEBOOK FRIEND



Josh & Steve  
**THE  
INVITATION  
GUYS**



Most people come to church  
because of a  
personal invitation.

—DR. THOM RAINER  
The Unchurched Next Door

It's the new millennium, thus the definition of the word FRIEND now includes, "People you haven't seen in years or have never met, but you can communicate with and share all of your deepest secrets via the world wide web." While, at times, your social media friends can seem a bit like robots, they are real—and they need church just like you. So, let's get the ball rolling by talking about how to invite people you never see to church. Who knows, it just might work.

### **1. Share posts from and about your church.**

Remember, if your current facebook friend is actually an old high school buddy, chances are he remembers "Old Stuart," and not so much the "I've Met Jesus Stuart." The last he saw you, you were tipping over cows and setting barrels of oil on fire in the name of a fierce high school rivalry. Go Tigers! Let's show your old pal that you're a Christian

now—and who knows, he just might like that funny video your church made. Bonus!

## **2. Create an “Event”**

Most of the time people just need an invite to church to put the whole thing over the top. Is Easter or Christmas coming up? Instead of expecting everyone to hear through traditional advertisements, create your own event. Say something like, “We’re all going to church on Sunday! Breakfast on me! Just show up at my house and we’ll carpool together!” Then, invite your friend to YOUR event and boom, you’re off and running.

## **3. Invite a “Catch Up”**

Okay, so we can make fun of “Facebook Friends” not being real all we want, but the truth is you probably knew the person pretty well at one point. Make a decision to reconnect. Message

your old friend and say, “Hey, we haven’t talked in a while, but it seems like you’re up to a ton of awesome stuff! Let’s get together.” After a few hangouts, use the opportunity to invite them to a thing at church or with your new friends. Now, you’re not just Facebook friends anymore, you’re REAL FRIENDS and bringing them a little closer to God!

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.

—Ezekiel 11:19



# INVITING THE FAMILY MEMBER



“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

—Matthew 25:35-36

Maybe you've already bombarded your family with countless invitations to church, much to their dismay. Listen, we get it. You're passionate about your faith and have a deep desire for your family members to have the same experience. Truth is, you're already sounding like a broken record. So, let's take a moment and look at these three steps that'll help us chart a different course to pointing your mom, dad, or uncle Dave to Jesus.

### **Step 1: Invite your loved one to an agenda free lunch**

Family dynamics are often messy, and whether that's because of a bitter family tension that's come up recently or it goes all the way back to your childhood and that time grandpa openly communicated that you were his favorite—and with your new-found position you began ordering everyone to begin preparing you a coat of multiple colors—there is hope. What better way to start rebuilding the relationship with a burrito and a side of guac. So,



pick up the phone, and call your sister, brother or whomever you have on your heart and invite them to lunch. Don't bring up God or church or anything related and just work on re-building the relationship right in front of you. Also, pick up the tab. : )

### **Step 2: Invite him or her into your life**

Life is busy and it can be easy to roll through the weekly with work routine, soccer practices and a smorgasbord of over-commitments. If you really want to have a relationship with your family member, you're going to have to put in some effort. Headed to the park with the kids this weekend? Invite them along. Grabbing a bite after church? Send them a text. Make a reminder via your phone, calendar or cyber-servant to regularly ask your kin, "Hey, wanna join the fun for a bit?"

### **Step 3: Invite patience**

Notice we didn't say, be patient. Even after a few lunches and hangouts, you're going to want to jump right in

and start talking church. Invite patience into your life and wait. Your goal here is first and foremost a relationship, so pause, take a breath and wait for him or her to come to you. Sooner or later a conversation will pop up and your family member will ask, “What do you think about my situation?” You’re gaining influence and that’s exactly the place you wanna be when one day down the line he or she asks, “Hey, I was thinking about joining you at church this weekend.” Double win.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”

—Matthew 11:28



# INVITING THE OFF-SPRING



And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

—Colossians 4:3

## **THEY'RE YOUR KIDS.**

They have to do what you say.

“For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”

—Matthew 5:46-48

Seriously though, if you have adult children and you want to invite them to church, refer to the “Inviting the Family Member” section.

# INVITING THE FRIEND

Josh & Steve  
**THE  
INVITATION  
GUYS**



**47%** of unchurched Americans  
are open to thinking about a  
new church based on a  
friend's invitation.

Time to get sappy and emotional, because this chapter is all about your pal, BFF, sister or brother from another mother. We're talking about inviting your friend to church. There's a good chance you've invited him or her a handful or times with a quick, "Thanks, but no cigar." Don't lose faith, though (pun intended), because there are a couple of nonchalant, off-the-cuff-yet-intentional ways you can be there for your friend, invite him or her to church, and help point them to God.

### **1. Make church a rock in your weekly schedule.**

Your friend might not want to go to church, but he definitely wants to hang out. "What's that, you ask? Wanna hang out on Saturday night?" That's your night for church and instead of bending your schedule to the will of all those requests, think of it as an opportunity to say yes...for them. "Hey, so church is a rock in our family's schedule.





How about you come with us and then we'll grab some dinner afterwards?" Whether it's a good friend from out of town, or a neighborhood buddy, you might just strike gold when they respond with, "Okay, sure. That'll work great."

## **2. Make church obvious**

When your pal isn't part of a church, it can seem awkward to talk about church in their presence. Don't be too forceful, but don't be shy with talking about the part you play within your local church. It's not a secret; so don't act like it's offensive. Chances are, eventually, the passion that drives your inclusion will propel your friend to ask you, "Why do you like that place so much?" Door opened.

## **3. Blackmail**

a. Look, you're great pals. You know all their deep dark secrets, so just tell 'em, "If you don't come

to church with me, I'm going to tell everyone about that time in college when you were dead set about becoming a competitive dog groomer. I've got photos."

b. Just kidding. Don't blackmail them...yet.

The bottom line is your friends are drawn to you for a variety of reasons, whether it be your personality or passions. Since your relationship is already on lock, take the God-given moments you find within your times together to simply ask, "Would you want to go to church with me sometime?" If the answer is an outright no, don't fret. Take it to God. He'll give you or someone around the opportunity he wants to invite your friend to church and lead them closer to Christ.

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

—Romans 15:7

# INVITING THE NEIGHBOR



Josh & Steve  
**THE  
INVITATION  
GUYS**



**82% OF THE UNCHURCHED**  
are at least somewhat likely to  
attend church if invited.

—DR. THOM RAINER  
The Unchurched Next Door

Living in a neighborhood surrounded by awesome neighbors is, well, awesome! There's nothing like striking up a relationship with your new, next door pal and being able to walk next door, borrow a mower, grab a cup of sugar, lend a hand to carry a load of what-not and have someone check the mail and house when you're on vacation. So, how do you make the jump from "waving hello" to "meeting at church?" Before attempting to invite them to church, consider inviting them into your life. Here are a few helpful tips to lead you on that journey.

### **1. Throw a dinner party**

Before you invite someone to church, consider inviting them into your life. Instead of just saying, "Hey, Bill," consider asking them to dinner this week! After all, proximity is definitely in your favor! Whether it's a bbq, chicken enchilada night or taco tuesday on friday, dinner with



your neighbor is a great way to easily communicate, “We’d love to know you better.”

## **2. Throw a block party.**

Why stop with getting to know ONE neighbor. Gather a few of your closest neighbors and plan a NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY complete with plenty of FUN! Brush off your graphic design skills you picked up in college and pass out flyers up and down the street to a little bash happening just in front of yours and everyone’s houses! Additionally, invite some of your friends from church to the bash and let’s get the party started!

## **3. Throw an invitation.**

One summer full of dinners and a kick-butt block party and you’re ready to take your friendship to the next level. The next time your church has

an event / movie night / roller derby, invite your neighbor! It's low-risk and high-fun and definitely an un-awkward step in the right direction.



**DON'T FORGET!**

Watch Josh and Steve's three  
mini-movies at [INVITEGUYS.COM](http://INVITEGUYS.COM)



For church resources like banners  
and these guides in bulk, visit  
[www.outreach.com/josh-and-steve](http://www.outreach.com/josh-and-steve)

# INVITEGUYS.COM



**OUTREACH**<sup>®</sup>

EB1929369