



Sermon outline for Invitation Cross Sunday

Aim: To help people think more Biblically about invitation and take a step of faith in response to what they learn

The key teaching points:

- **Rethink about what God expects of us** - God measures us by our obedience and not our successes
- **Rethink about what God wants for us** - God wants us to grow spiritually as much as he wants others to know him
- **Rethink God's role in mission** - God is already on a mission and just asks us to join in with what he is doing

Note: The hope is you will express the content in your own words and illustrate from your own experience. The three videos have a total running time of just over 14 mins, so you may want to omit either the second or third.

Scripture reading: Exodus 3 1-11

Introduction

Option 1: Show John Kirby 'The power of an invitation' video. Download under the heading *Endorsement Videos* from [Free Resources](#).

Option 2: Briefly interview someone who has become part of your church as the result of being invited.

Message

That's the kind of impact an invitation can make. And research suggests there are about 3 million people out there who are open to an invitation – which includes those in our own community and among our friends and family.

But how do you react to the suggestion that you should be someone who invites?

Perhaps you are just like Moses whose response to God's request to invite Pharaoh to let his people go was 'Who am I?' Or, in other words 'What? Me?!!!!'

Moses knew God and wanted to serve him. But his reaction may be much like ours when it comes to being asked to invite– fear.

If only Moses had known 3 things that we also need to know if invitation is going to happen.

1. God measures us by our obedience and not our successes



1. God measures us by our obedience and not by our successes

PowerPoint available under the heading Your Invitation Cross Sunday on our [Free Resources](#).

We live in a society that honours success above everything else. Our world is obsessed with achievement, and growth.

And it is not surprising that this kind of bad thinking has infiltrated the church. As a result, we wrongly value ourselves based on the numbers who come and the successes we have.

That's why we need to think more Biblically. Jesus didn't say 'Well done you good and successful servant'. But 'well done you good and faithful servant'– Matthew 25.

We put our emphasis on the outcome, but it is faithfulness and obedience that matter to the God we serve. If we can see obedience as 'success' we are released from the fear of failure and pressure to 'succeed'.

All God asked of Moses was for him to obey and invite. In the same way, when God prompts us with the name of someone to invite, that's all he's asking of us. To invite – and leave the outcome to him.

That means to get a 'no' is not to have failed. Indeed, Moses had to invite Pharaoh 10 times to let the people go. So was Moses successful each of those times? Not by today's standards. But, by God's standard of obedience, Moses was very successful.

2. God wants us to blossom spiritually as much as he wants others to know him

PowerPoint available under the heading Your Invitation Cross Sunday on our [Free Resources](#).

2. God wants us to blossom spiritually as much as he wants others to know him



To see what I mean, look at what happened to Moses.

Show the video: Moses my unstoppable hero (5 mins 30 secs)
Download under the heading *Your Invitation Cross Sunday* from [Free Resources](#).

Despite the excuses and doubts Moses delivered the invitation. And by trusting in God to meet his needs, Moses grew in faith and spiritual maturity.

That's also God's plan for us as we obediently trust him in making invitations to those he prompts us to invite.

To think more Biblically involves doing what Jesus did. We read in the Gospels how he sent out the 70 on a mission. When they returned he was as interested in what happened *to them* as he was in what happened *through them*.

Sometimes we get this right. When young people go on a mission trip we want to know what it meant to them. In the same way, to invite is a 'mission trip' – but much closer to home. And we need to be aware that it is also part of our own spiritual growth.

3. God is already on a mission and just asks us to join in
PowerPoint available under the heading Your Invitation Cross Sunday on our [Free Resources](#).

It's easy to think mission as 'all about us' – with God just giving some help on the way. That we have been 'sent to make disciples' and now the pressure is on to deliver the goods.

But, if we are to think Biblically, we need to recognise that God is already on a mission. Indeed, Jesus was the first missionary – 'God sent his son'.

Mission is God's work, it is on his shoulders – with us invited to take his hand and join in.

This means God doesn't start to work when we turn up but is already active in people's lives – including those we may be prompted to invite.

Mission is God's work, the results are up to him. We just have to be available to play our part.



3. God is already on a mission and just asks us to join in

So far as Moses was concerned, God wanted Moses to tell Pharaoh to let the people go. The invitation came from God and Moses just had to deliver it.

More than that, God promised to be with Moses every step of the way *'I will go down with you and bring you back up again'*. In mission we get to go with God.

We can see how 'the mission is God's' when we can see how he can prompt us as to who to invite and the way so many are open to accepting.

Optional - Which is why this video has much to encourage us. **Show the video: Mr Stevens** (3 mins 30 secs) Download under the heading *Your Invitation Cross Sunday* from [Free Resources](#).

We have seen that –

1. All God asks is our faithful obedience,
2. That he wants us to grow in faith as we respond, and that
3. He is already at work.

I hope that takes the pressure off. Indeed, this might be the moment to let out a big sigh of relief. (*You may want to encourage them to do exactly that – and pause while it sinks in.*)

God's invitation came to Moses as he was going about his natural work day. What he needed was to take time to pause and look more closely. And that's what we are going to do now.

God is inviting us to become a people who listen to God's still small voice that's calling us to participate in God's mission today. Who is God calling you to invite? Like Moses and God, it's you and God the unstoppable duo.

Optional – All we have to do is invite. Show the video invitation Train. (5 mins 30 secs) Download under the heading *Your Invitation Cross Sunday* from [Free Resources](#).

Introduce the Invitation Cross activity – see [How to use the Invitation Cross](#) and the pdf download *How to run an Invitation Cross Sunday* from [Free Resources](#).