



# How to run an Inviter Sunday

An **Inviter Sunday** is when the spiritual journey of those who have made an invitation is acknowledged and celebrated. This is done by sharing the stories of those who invited someone – whether they received a ‘yes’ or not.

This is important for three reasons –

1. It affirms the Biblical principal that God’s call to us is to be obedient and then to leave the success to him.
2. It helps those who have invited to see where God has been at work.
3. It encourages those who have yet to make an invitation to do so.

## When does an Inviter Sunday take place?

Your Inviter Sunday should be held on one of the two Sundays after holding an Invitation Cross Sunday. It is intended to flow naturally from your Invitation Cross Sunday to your Weekend of Invitation.

## What is an Inviter Sunday?

An Inviter Sunday is an opportunity to encourage and affirm the congregation. And to emphasise the three ways to think more Biblically about invitation:

These are that -

- What God asks of us is to be faithful by just making the invitation and leaving the yes or no to him.
- The spiritual journey of the one doing the inviting is as important as the spiritual journey of the one being invited
- God is leading mission – already at work in the lives of those we may be prompted to invite – and just invites us to join in.

There is more about these three ways to think more Biblically on the video [Thinking Differently About Invitation](#).

## Preparation

During the week following your Invitation Cross Sunday seek out the stories of those that have invited people. Ideally this will include those who have received a ‘yes’, or a ‘no’ or a ‘maybe’ – but all have been faithful to invite.

These stories are likely to have happened over the past days but could equally relate to an invitation that happened a little further in the past.

Ask if they would be willing to take part in a brief interview to share their step of faith, what happened and where they saw God at work. To have three of four stories would be ideal – and, hopefully, your own experience as well.

## **What to do**

At an appropriate moment, remind people of what has been shared with them regarding the three ways to think more Biblically about invitation.

And say there were those who had felt nudged by God to invite and some of them are about to share what happened as a result.

**The interviews:** To set the tone it would be helpful for you to tell your own story about making an invitation – especially if you got a ‘no’! Share how you felt, what happened, what it meant to you and where God might have been at work. The more vulnerable you are the more helpful to others it will be.

During the interviews ask questions like:

- What happened?
- How were you feeling at the time?
- Where do you think God might have been at work?
- What has this meant for you personally?

In this way you are demonstrating a genuine interest in the one who made the invitation – with the opportunity to affirm them and see their faith grow.

**The conversations:** Now ask people to turn to those around them and share:

- How their own invitation went or where they are up to asking God or in making the invitation.
- What they have learned from the interviews they have just heard.

After a few minutes ask them to pray for each other and those being invited – either silently or out loud.

Conclude, thanking God for what he is doing in the lives of those in church, for those who have received an invitation, and for those to whom invitations are still to be made.

This is also a good time to remind people of the details of your Weekend of Invitation event(s) or service, and to encourage them, if they have not yet had the confidence to make an invitation, that there is still time.

**NationalWeekendofInvitation.com**