

HOSPITALITY



Week 2: 'Come and see' – Offering Invitation

My culture does not like the word “death” because it is considered unlucky. Since I was at a very young age I started to find out why we die and what is the meaning of life.

Then one day, when I was a teenager, I was invited to attend a church event. The speaker’s topic that evening was The Gift of Eternal Life. I was thrilled to find out my long-seeking question was being answered.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life for God’s wrath remains on him. (John 3:36) He conquered death and gives eternal life to those who confess and accept Him as Lord and Saviour.

Thank you Jesus, my host who invited me to come to Him as guest and drink the spring of the water of life. We are also being honoured to be a host to share the bible truth or spiritual food regarding God’s grace and salvation to our guests too.

I consider this has been the most important invitation I ever attended in my life time. I am very grateful for my hosts (brothers and sisters in Christ) for their compassion and commitment proclaiming the gospel to their neighbours and people around them. [JY]

A successful invitation is where the guest responds reluctantly to it but, out of curiosity, decides to go along. After the event, the guest has found it worthwhile and interesting. He wants to go back to learn more about the people or the topic. He realises that he has been missing something, so he returns! [MD]

To me, a "good" invitation is so warm you knew you were invited already, without hidden agenda, and does not cause anxiety! In Azerbaijan, the poorer people share anything and everything with you. Way up in the hills, shepherds and sherpa people share their food and let you use their horses. If we met wealthy Azeri people, we did not get to know them as they would not invite you to anything!

Invitation is now a word used in active listening, and counselling. You are invited(or not) into areas of people's lives they find difficult. If you are not invited, you don't intrude there. Learning to read invitation or non-invitation is a skill many of us need to develop. [SJ]

For me, a good invitation tells me what the party or celebration is about, where I'm to be, what time I'm to be there, any appropriate dress code requirements, and if I'm to bring anything (gift, food, etc., if an RSVP is expected and if I can bring a guest. [PW]

A musical suggestion: 'O taste and see how gracious the Lord is by Vaughan Williams. A recording by the Cambridge Singers is available here:'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heiiATCrwVQ>
[JØ]

'I listened recently to Renee Fleming singing “Come unto him.. “ from Handel’s Messiah....Beautiful!
For me this would be appropriate for the reading - John 1:35-51.

Inviting people to one’s house, and being invited to the homes of other people is one of life’s pleasures! It makes me think of the times when Andy, my late husband, and I after the church services on Sunday, used to be invited for lunch to the homes of members of the coastal Methodist churches. We were both made to feel so welcome in each house. There were no demands made on us as guests other than to relax and feel at home. The generosity and goodwill emanating from the hosts was always wonderful and enriching. The hospitality was given willingly and genuinely. Long lasting, friendships were made. Relationships were forged.’ [MD]