

Invitational Living

John 1:35-46 • March 14, 2021

Rev. Rick Dietzman, Sequim Community Church

Do you ever wonder why Jesus had such an effect on people?

He said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Jesus asked "What do you want?"

— John 1:37-38

A. Noticing leads to caring

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

— Matthew 9:36-38

A daily prayer: "Lord as I interact with others today, help me to see them as you do."

B. Invitational living is powerful

"Taste and see that the LORD is good."

— Psalm 34:8

"Come," Jesus replied, "and you will see"... and they spent that day with him."

— John 1:39

- Do you ever wonder what happened in that initial encounter?

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah..." And he brought him to Jesus.

— John 1:41-42

Jesus looked at him intently and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

— John 1:42

"I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

— Matthew 16:18

After Nathaniel was told by Philip to come and see, Jesus said to him, *"Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."*

— John 1:47

C. Being the kind of person others notice and wonder about... in a good way

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

— 1 Peter 3:15

"Divine dialog happens when we keep the spotlight on others and what they want to talk about. Meaningful conversations happen when we accept where people are in relation to God."

— Doug Pollock "Activating God Space"

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works."

— Hebrews 10:24

"The number one quality people are looking for is someone who listens without judgment. What people want is conversation."

Craig Springer, Alpha USA

Application: Pray about inviting a friend or relative to come with you to explore

Basic Beliefs this Spring! Featuring the Alpha film series and live interaction with our pastors.

Basic Beliefs is a nine-week course that creates a space, online or in person, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God.

- Starting Wednesday April 14 – on Zoom. 6:30 – 8 pm
- Starting Thursday April 15 – at SCC with dinner. 5:30 - 8 pm