

Experiment #3 – Two-fold Inviting - Week of 3/ 8

INTRODUCTION TO THE EXPERIMENT

Each week of this study we are challenging you to try an experiment. The experiments are generally simple, but still will stretch you out of your comfort zone. We want you to try them all. There's no judgment if it doesn't work, and since we're all learning together, no one is an expert!

If you did last week's experiment than you know the drill. If you didn't, it's OK, just start right now.

Just like with the previous experiments, we will begin our next Good News in the Neighborhood conversation by sharing what happened during our experiments. So the wisdom and learning of the whole group depends on each of us contributing.

What you need

- An hour
- A friend
- A dose of bravery
- An open heart

What it is

Two-Fold Inviting is a simple exchange. It's you inviting new people into your life. And you allowing yourself to be invited into others' lives.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love and acknowledge ALL people. During this experiment you are going to intentionally not ignore ANYONE.

So this experiment is really simple because all we're doing is asking you to find an hour to just acknowledge people in your neighborhood. Make eye contact, wave, say hello, and maybe even enter into a conversation with someone you normally avoid.

How it works

Schedule a time with a friend. All you need is an hour. Trust us, this will go fast if you just give it a try. It's really not that scary.

You and a friend are going to find a place in your neighborhood where people often go. For instance, head to a local playground where parents bring their children to play. If you live in a community with a lot of people walking around, say in a city, you might just need to go sit on the front porch.

Next, discipline yourself to acknowledge every single person who goes by. A simple wave or quick hello will do the trick. Push yourself to make eye contact. (Eye contact in our American culture is a sign that you are noticing a person and you respect their personhood.) Even in doing that, you are inviting and representing Jesus who recognized everyone as part of His creation.

If the opportunity arises and you are feeling brave, strike up a conversation. For those who are outgoing this will be really easy. If you aren't naturally outgoing, remember, this is just an experiment! Your conversation doesn't need an agenda. Just get to know someone brand new who lives in your neighborhood.

Stretch Yourself

- If you're willing and the context is right, maybe sit down with someone and ask them to tell you their story. (Obviously, don't do this alone!)
- Make a list of people in your neighborhood who you could invite over for a meal or conversation with your family.
- Next time you get invited to do something or go somewhere you might not want to go, say YES. (We are talking about safe and appropriate things here. Not something that could potentially endanger you!) Consider it an honor to set aside your personal preference for the sake of being invited into someone else's life.