



Acts: Kingdom Invitation

Date: Sunday 8th November

Speaker: Jeff Stamps

Key Verses: Acts 2, Acts 8, Acts 16

Talk Summary:

- In Acts 2:14 and 16:5 it says that 'God added to their number daily'. – wouldn't that be cool? But how does that happen?
- The spread of Christianity was the result of ordinary believers scattered into the world (Acts 2:41, 8:1-4)
- The Apostles, ultimately brought training and structure to this organic spread but they were not the source.
- If we are going to see God add to our number daily, then sharing our faith can't be the job of a few. rather we need - Everyone available everyday anywhere
- To put this in classic Vineyard language - Everyone gets to play - this is not the job for specialists, if you know Jesus you can introduce people to him.
- We often count ourselves out because we see evangelism as more than it is. It's simply living out our faith I public. We simply need to have an attitude of availability. And recognise that people are on a journey and our job is just to nudge them one step closer to Jesus.
- I recognize that for all of us "being available" will mean overcoming some level of fear.
- It seems that the most common fear is that if they start a conversation then they will be asked a question that they don't know the answer to. But this isn't something to be scared of its a great opportunity to continue the conversation or to connect them with another believer.
- As a leadership, our prayer and desire is to be a church where people encounter Jesus. Where God is adding to our number daily. But we can't do this on our own. Every one of us has a part to play, to join in the adventure of extending God's invitation.
- We are in a time of scattering, like in Acts, with the 3000 going back home after festival, or the believers after persecution in Jerusalem. We have been scattered, sent to our homes, our

neighborhoods, our work places, with a message of hope. It might just be that in the midst of this challenging time God has fruitfulness for you, it might be at your work place, or even in the hairdresser.

- God is with you wherever you go and he is always at work drawing people to himself, lets join with him and continue the adventure.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What did you think about the talk? Was there anything that you found particularly interesting or challenging?
- What holds you back from sharing your faith? How could you overcome this?
- What would it look like for you to live your life with a greater level of availability?

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus.

- Who in your world would appreciate an invitation to Alpha/Christmas? Begin praying for them.

Note to Small Group Leaders: Please note that if you'd like to review the sermon, or have a hard time following the video, you can use subtitles on YouTube. On the YouTube video, click the "closed captioning" button (bottom left of YouTube video screen, first button). Google "how to show subtitles on YouTube videos" if you need help with this.