

# HOW TO INVITE SOMEONE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Keep these tips in mind as you invite your friends:*

## In Advance

- 1 Invite for the right reasons. Don't dehumanize your friends by treating them as a means to an end (for example, as a way to earn something by inviting the most friends).
- 2 Tell them why you go to Sunday School. How has church made a difference in your life? How do you think it can benefit their lives or help them? You might mention the topic your class has been studying in Sunday School lately, and how it's been helpful to you.
- 3 Don't ask negative questions like, *You wouldn't want to go to church with me, would you?* Instead, try, *I'd love to have you join me for Sunday School sometime . . . how about it?*
- 4 Contact a church friend, your Sunday School teacher, or your pastoral staff and let them know you'll be bringing a guest with you on Sunday so that they'll be watching for you.

## During the Visit

- 5 Introduce your guests to your church friends, especially to any who you know share common interests or experiences.
- 6 Stick by your friend. It's uncomfortable to be in a strange place where you feel you're the only one who doesn't know what's going on. If at all possible, sit together during the service; if you absolutely *can't* get out of choir, ushering, etc., ask a friend or family member to sit with them.
- 7 Keep an eye out to instruct. Every church has its own peculiar set of rituals. Even if your friends have been to church before, they may not understand the procedures *your* church follows. If they seem to need assistance, help them find the hymn, scripture verse, etc.
- 8 Gather copies of all written materials—church bulletins, brochures about the church's ministries, newsletters, etc.—and send them home with your friends. Ask if they'd like to be on the church mailing list. Assure them that this will simply keep them informed about church happenings not inundate them with appeal letters from the church.
- 9 Invite your friends out (or to your home) for lunch after church. If possible, invite another couple of friends as well, so that your guests will feel familiar with someone else besides you if they decide to visit again.

## Follow-Up

- 10 Send a simple thank-you note to say, "Enjoyed having you join me Sunday." Encourage your teacher or another classmate to give your friend a call to say, "Thanks for the visit. We really enjoyed meeting you and hope you come again."
- 11 Set the stage for future invitations: *I really enjoyed your going to church with me. I don't want to be pushy, but would you mind if I invited you again from time to time?* Consider inviting your friends to future class fellowships, church potlucks, or other activities.
- 12 Build on the friendship you've started. Your visitors must feel somewhat positively about you or they wouldn't have accepted your invitation in the first place. Even if the person won't go to church with you again, pursue ways to deepen the friendship—schedule lunch together, invite them over for dinner, send notes on special days like birthdays, etc.

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