

Spirit of Invitation

<https://spiritofinvitation.com/>

“Invited is a series of short films exploring genuine Christian invitation”

Invited is a series of short films that seek to explore what it means to engage in genuine, Christian invitation.

We begin with the conviction that invitation is at the very heart of the Gospel – that Jesus invites each one of us to come and follow him, and being an invitational people is at the very core of our identity as Christians.

From there, we offer thoughts, images and dreams – and we hope that you’ll join the conversation.

Invited is also a written resource, intended to be used by groups and communities to help foster conversation about and exploration into the breadth and length and depth of invitation.

Episode 1: Table

Table explores the invitation that we’ve all received in Jesus as the starting place for all of our conversations about invitation. Probing connections between the Lord’s table and our dinner tables, we question whether or not the extraordinary can be found tucked inside of the ordinary. What if the most exciting thing about us is that we’ve been invited?

Episode 2: Home

Home explores our preconceived notion of what Christian invitation might involve. From obnoxious sales tactics to simply avoiding the topic, it’s safe to say that many of us have some issues. But, what if invitation begins at home? What if the first question isn’t about how we invite others – but about how we explore and deepen our faith in community, inviting one another back in again and again.

Episode 3: Joy

Joy explores the way that joy grows and spreads from one person to another. Built into the fabric of the universe is the joy of God the creator, and when we catch a glimpse of something amazing, the truth is that we can’t help but share it with others. What if this is where invitation really comes from – the kind of excitement that’s too busy jumping up and down to be worried about expectations and programs and church attendance. Because joy expands, inviting everyone in.

Episode 4: Us

Us explores our own stories and experiences of invitation. We meet a range of average, everyday Anglicans, and ask for their unscripted thoughts on invitation. Are we stuck in another era, or are we doing some things well? Are we the ones offering the invitation, or are we the ones actually being invited in? If we engage in the conversation, we might find God at work in unexpected places.

Episode 5: One

One explores the place of invitation within the midst of our often fragmented lives. Real invitation takes place when we realize that we've received an invitation to live a life of radical unity, joined together in the unity of God. What would invitation look like if we begin from this place of unity and cohesion, and engage with those around us as whole people too?

Episode 6: Go

Go draws upon material from the first five episodes to explore the concept of invitation in our Christian identity, in our communities, and in our lives. As we revisit the big questions, attempt to connect the dots between episodes, and take another look at what it means to engage in genuine Christian invitation, we can't help but wonder – what are we waiting for? We've been invited.

Q: What is Spirit of Invitation:

A: Spirit of Invitation is an initiative of the Diocese of Toronto. We're a kind of creative working group, built on the idea that mission and discipleship are inseparable from one another, and seeking to explore our Christian faith through a variety of media.

Spirit of Invitation has developed *Invited*, which is a series of short films and a written resource, both aimed at exploring the shape of genuine Christian invitation. And, who knows? We might just have more projects in mind.

Q: What is Invited? Is it a series of films, or some kind of written resource?

A: Yes.

Invited is a series of short films that seek to explore what it means to engage in genuine, Christian invitation. We begin with the conviction that invitation is at the very heart of the Gospel – that Jesus invites each one of us to come and follow him, and being an invitational people is at the very core of our identity as Christians. From there, we offer thoughts, images and dreams – and we hope that you'll join the conversation.

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Q: Who developed Invited?

This idea came out of a working group within the Diocese of Toronto that was tasked with exploring new ways of encouraging Anglicans to be more invitational. You might say that we're a group of people who stumbled upon an exciting idea.

The Spirit of Invitation team is a diverse group of about 10 people from all kinds of different backgrounds, ordained and lay, working together to explore the concept of invitation.

Q: How do I use *Invited*?

Any way you want to!

We've designed the videos and the written materials to work together, but they also work on their own. There is a kind of internal logic at work as you move through them in order, but, hey – we're not going to tell on you if you decide to use them out of order. And we've heard that if you play the first video backwards at double speed while reading the fourth part of the written resources out loud, crazy things can happen.

We hope you'll engage with the material and make them your own. Use them however makes sense to you.

Q: Does it cost anything to use?

No. It's our gift to you. And, if you like it, all we ask is that you share it.

If you're a large organization and you're looking to use *Invited* on a large scale, we ask that you do us the courtesy of letting us know by dropping us a line at info@spiritofinvitation.com

Please, don't try to pass off our material as your own. That's just not nice. It only takes a second to attribute this stuff to *Spirit of Invitation*.

Q: Can I download the videos?

Yes. Go to the Vimeo page for the video you want and look for the **Download** link/button.

Q: Can I get hard copies of the videos and/or written resources?

You can, for a small fee. Drop us a line at info@spiritofinvitation.com and we'll give you the details.

Q: I love *Invited*! How can I make a donation?

Thanks! We do too. Both *Invited* and *Spirit of Invitation* are funded by *the Diocese of Toronto*. You can make a donation [here](#).

Contact us

Please do get in touch with us, we'd love to talk to you!

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