



## **Improving Our Winsome Invitations**

God wants to use our winsome invitations to offer far more people on campus a compelling reason to check out Jesus and transform them forever. Let's imitate Jesus with his life-changing invitation in John 1 with his epic "come and see." Unfortunately, our un-coached invitations all too often are more like Acts 2 when the crowd hears the disciples and conclude, "They must be drunk." How many times do InterVarsity students make invitations but we sound unintelligible, confusing, or worse yet, just plain boring? Let's no assume we know how to make a winsome invitation. Instead, let's train and coach every member to become much better at this life-changing act of love.

#### What does a winsome invitation do?

- 1. Creates a felt need
- 2. Connects to you personally
- 3. Clearly invites

### Where do you start?

- 1. WHY: begin your invitation with connecting to the need that your event addresses.
- 2. WHAT: many people begin with the time and day of the week. Please put that last, ending with details about how to find it (small group, large group, special event, etc.)

#### WRITING YOUR OWN WINSOME INVITATION

1.	W	'hat fe	elt need	does	InterVa	arsitv	meet	on v	vour	campu	ıs and	how	does	Inter\	√arsit∖	/ meet t	hat ne	ed?

2. How have you personally been impacted by the InterVarsity event to which you are having them?

3. Why should others check it out?



## COACHING A WINSOME INVITATION

After our invitations are created, we get coached to improve. Both BRIGHT SPOT coaching and GAP coaching are effective and encouraging.

### **Bright Spot Coaching**

Finds the strongest part of the invitation and makes it better. Ask good questions to unearth the crux of their vision in the invitation.

### Gap Coaching

Finds the weak parts of the invitation and makes it better. Put the non-Christian at the center of your thinking, and try to get into their shoes. How can you best connect to them? Please remove any inaccessible language. Christian jargon is "us" focused. Change jargon like "small group" to an understandable synonym like "spiritual discussions."

#### **INVITATION A**

What are you doing on Tuesday at 7pm? (pause)

I'm starting a Bible study next week because I want to help my dorm seek the Lord. We want to create a safe place for Christians to gather amidst the hostile secular university. We want a place for mature Christians to grow, not just baby Christians. We need a diet of meat, not milk (1 Cor 3: 2).

#### **INVITATION B**

College is a great time to freely explore who we are and what we believe, but exploring issues of faith can feel vague and abstract. I want to create a safe place where anyone can try-on faith in practical ways, Jesus has some great ideas for helping us grow and be transformed. Would you or anyone you know be interested in coming to something like that?

# COACHING THE 2 INVITATIONS

- 1. Find a bright spot in Invitation A and make it better. What is one gap in Invitation A that you want to coach?
- 2. What do you like about Invitation B? How would you make Invitation B stronger?



## Examples of 15-second Invitations

#### **NEW STUDENT OUTREACH**

There are \_\_\_\_ students on our campus who are loved by God. Sadly, many don't know God's love. InterVarsity exists to help students explore that love and be transformed by it. Would a community like that be something you'd be interested in? Or who do you know who would be?

#### **SMALL GROUPS**

Thank you for filling out a contact card and letting us know you want to know more about our Bible study. I love our small group because God has used it to change my lie. Our small group is happening at (place and time). We are honest and we put the words of Jesus into action afterwards. Small group is even better with friends. Can we invite a few of your friends to make this a great small group? Who might you like to invite?

## CONFERENCE

Last year my friends and I went on a weekend away to InterVarsity's Fall Conference. There was a speaker who inspired me through her story. I realized that God has a plan for my college years that is more than just my classes and what degree I get. Going through the weekend with friends made it all the more powerful. I can't wait to go back to be newly inspired and connect with God. I would love for you to come with me. It is (date). Will you come with me? who else should we bring?

#### **GIG INVITATION**

Thanks for filling out a contact card and telling us that you're curious about spirituality and the teachings of Jesus. I am starting a group to look honestly at Jesus and to explore putting his teachings into practice. Exploring faith is more exciting with friends who are also curious. Who would you like to invite to join?

#### **GENERAL INVITATION**

College is a place where we explore who we are and what we believe. Exploring what we believe on our own can be difficult and confusing. Would you or your friends be interested in an honest place to explore Jesus? I joined in an honest community like that last year, and it helped me grow in purpose. I think God is inviting us to create a similar space this year.

Do you want to be a part of it?