

# OUR STRATEGY:

## INVITE:

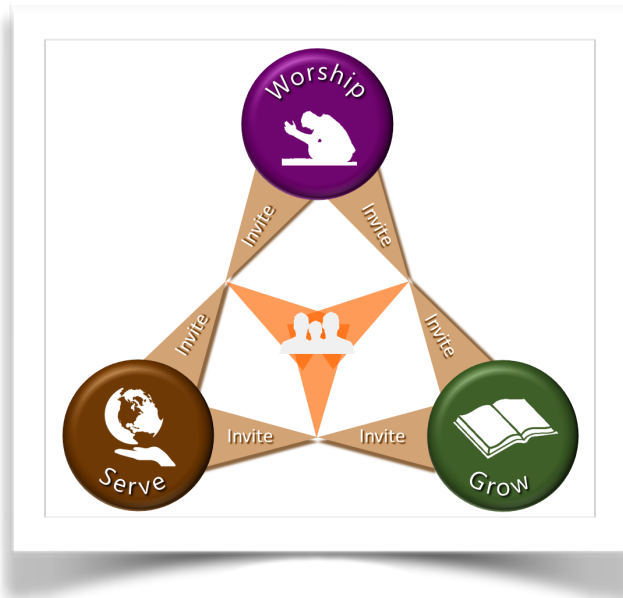
As Philip invited his friends to come and see Jesus, we regularly do the same.

### Scripture:

Genesis 12:1–3 The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

Acts 3:25 You are the children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, ‘Through your descendants all the families on earth will be blessed.’

John 1:45–46 Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.” <sup>46</sup> “Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” “Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied.



### *Demonstrated by:*

Having a spirit of welcome in all of our ministries and groups, ready to be “interrupted” to receive new people into our midst.

Taking advantage of opportunities to invite others to join us in our worshipping, growing and serving.

Remembering the invitation is not to “attend” but rather to worship God, to grow in our understanding of who God is and to serve others in the name of Jesus.





### Thoughts:

.....  
"Everything that is done in the world is done by hope."

— Martin Luther

"To live without Hope is to Cease to live."

— Dostoevsky

"Hopeful thinking can get you out of your fear zone and into your appreciation zone."

— Martha Beck

### Reflections:

.....  
How do you like to be invited to join your friends?

What causes you to hesitate to invite others to your faith activities?

What can you do to change those hesitations?

Who is in your life right now that you could invite?

What will you invite them to do with you?

What can Desert Hope do to be more inviting and welcoming?

### Scripture continued:

Matthew 9:9–10 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup> Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.

Matthew 28:16–20 Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! <sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark 16:15–16 And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. <sup>16</sup> Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned."

Luke 24:47–49 It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: "There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent." <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of all these things. <sup>49</sup> "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

John 20:21–23 Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

