

March 18 & 19, 2023

Message: Pastor Doyle Jackson

Study: Pastor Doug McCoy

Front Up #2 - Invitations

I. Announcements & Prayer

- **This Weekend** – indoor worship services **Saturday @ 5pm** and **Sunday @ 9:20 and 11am**. You can listen in your car by tuning your radio to 95.3 FM or watch the livestream on Facebook or thechurchnextdoor.org. **Bring a neighbor! Invite a friend!**
- **Radio Show** – The **Your Next Step** radio show continues **Mon-Fri at 10:30am and 6pm** on **The Word 880 AM and 104.5 FM**. The podcast is also available on our website yournextstepnow.com as well as all podcasting services.
- **Deeper Life** – Deeper Life meets this Sunday night at 5pm. Join Pastor Doyle in the sanctuary to go deeper into God's word.
- **New Bible Reading Plan and Podcast** – find our 2023 Bible reading plan and daily podcast on the app or at <https://thechurchnextdoor.org/connect/bible-reading-plan/>. It will bless your life!
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – our little ones are hunting Easter eggs on the west lawn on **April 1** from **11am-1pm**. Bring your little ones to find some treats and have some fun.

II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. When have you ever had to “front up”, that is, put yourself in a position to take a risk? How did that turn out for you?
2. When did you receive an invitation you were really hoping to get? What was it for? What happened when you accepted it?

III. Bible Study

Read **Proverbs 9:1–12** (NIV)

Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars.

2 She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

3 She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city,

4 “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says,

5 “Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.

6 Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight.”

7 Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.

8 Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you.

9 Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

11 For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

12 If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

1. In this passage, wisdom is representing God and is inviting people to receive the things of God. How does it feel to see that God invites people to receive from Him like this? What do you think God invites us to receive? Who can you invite to receive these things along with you this Easter season?

Read **John 1:37–39** (NIV)

John's Disciples follow Jesus the Lamb of God... **37** When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” **39** “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

2. How do you imagine Jesus' tone and expression when He asks the disciples-to-be "What do you want?" and says, "Come and see"? How can we offer a similar invitation in a similar way to people who have very little knowledge of Jesus?

Read **Matthew 4:17–20** (NIV)

Following Jesus baptism and temptation... **17** From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."** **20** At once they left their nets and followed him..

3. How is this a deeper invitation than the first? Why do you think Jesus offered this deeper invitation to these fishermen? When have you accepted the invitation to follow Jesus as they did? When and where do you go "fish for people"?

Read **John 6:5-7** (NIV)

Jesus teaches them to feed 5000... **5** When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" **6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.**

7 Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

4. Why do you think Jesus "tested" Philip? How did being tested in this way strengthened the way Philip invited people to Jesus in the future? When have you A) believed that God can abundantly provide and 2) extended that abundant provision to others in ministry and/or invitation?

Read **Luke 9:1–2, 6** (NIV)

Jesus sends out the 12 & 72... **1** When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, **2** and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

6 So they set out and went from village to village, **proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere."**

5. When did you first realize God has asked you to invite people to His kingdom? When did you realize Jesus gave you "power and authority" to do this? How does realizing this encourage you to invite the people in your circle to Jesus?

Read **Luke 14:16-18**

Jesus' story of invitations...(NIV) **16** Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. **17** At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

6. Easter is a time of victory celebration. Who can you invite to this victory celebration this Easter? When will you do that?