



A Six-Lane Strategy to Create a Culture of Invitation in Your Student Ministry Training Plan

2 Hours

Purpose:

This plan will guide student ministry leaders toward understanding and implementing a six-lane approach for fulfilling the Great Commission. This will be aimed toward training students to develop and adopt a culture of invitation. It will also help both students and leaders grasp the togetherness Christ has for us as we take a Kingdom approach to reach the lost by bringing more students to our Sunday school classes and student ministry.

Planning:

To begin this training you should set the stage that we are taking a road trip down I-6. You will explain that we will cross many lanes of traffic, that all lanes matter and that if we are backed up on one lane, it will affect the other. The lanes and the traffic lead us to understand that we must generate a culture of invitation to our students. The reason for the journey is that we are seeing a higher number of students than ever before, yet a decline in baptisms and in Bible study. This trip could be one of the most important trips we as leaders ever take. On the journey we will cross six lanes: Invigorate, Incorporate, Intercede, Invest, Invite and Involve. The lanes will lead us to bring more into the kingdom through invitation on this Great Commission road trip.

Room Setting

Prepare the following items:

- Chairs arranged in small clusters putting 6-8 in each group. Groups can be small if conference is smaller.
- Data projector, screen, computer for PPT
- CD player or iPod for music
- Music or traffic sounds CD playing in the background as the leaders enter and also during group projects and on breaks.
- A copy of I-6 for each participant
- Tear sheets
- Sentence strips
- Tape and markers

Step 1: Invitation to Ride

- Distribute Handout 1-1 and 1-2, which is the invitation for the ride.
- CD player and traffic sounds CD
- Chairs in small clusters

Step 2: Invigorate Lane

- Paper for the leaders to draw their space
- Tear sheets
- Distribute Handout 2, which is the traffic warning, to each participant

Step 3: Incorporate Lane

- Tear sheets
- Distribute Handout 3 to each participant

- Optional: If you choose to add the optional step you will need enough copies of Handout 4 for each participant. Cut the handout in half before passing to leaders.

Step 4: Intercede Lane

- A copy of the I-6 book for every participant
- 10 post-it notes for each leader, 5 in one color and 5 in another color
- 4 tear sheets located around the room, each with a different letter: F, R, A or N
- CD player with music or traffic sounds

Step 5: Invest Lane

- Distribute Handout 5, cut apart. You will need enough copies for each group to have one assignment.
- Tear sheets
- Sentence strips

Step 6: Invite Lane

- A copy of the I-6 book for every participant
- Distribute Handout 6, a copy for every participant
- Tear sheet

Step 7: Involve Lane

- Tear sheet

Step 8: Closing

- Tear sheet
- Paper for action plan

Procedure:

Step 1: Invitation to Ride (10 Minutes)

When leaders enter the room there should be music or traffic sounds playing in the background as if we were in the car.

Say: Welcome Leaders, I'm so glad you joined us for the road trip down I-6. As they enter give them an invitation to take this trip. (Handout 1) **Please have a seat in one of the cars (chairs) and discuss the question that is found on the back of your invitation. We will be leaving shortly.** After no more than 5 minutes of small group discussion bring the groups together. **Say: Tonight we are taking a road trip. This trip will lead us down six lanes of traffic - some are fast lanes, some are slow lanes. The six lanes of the highway will lead us to gather information we can use to create a culture of invitation. This journey will be of utmost importance because the kingdom is at hand. We are running out of time and we must increase the desire for our students to share and invite their friends to church, to class and most importantly, to Christ. Let the Journey begin....**

Step 2: Invigorate (15 Minutes)

Say: The first lane we cross is Invigorate. What is attractive or dynamic about our space/class/youth area? Take out the paper you found on your chairs when you came in and draw a picture of your student ministry area or your Sunday school classroom. What needs work?

While the leaders are drawing and writing take time to go around the room and see what they are writing. After 5 minutes ask someone to share what they drew. **Say: We have hit our first road block: our space can turn people away. What changes do we need to make? How can we accomplish them? Invigorate is a fast lane. Beyond space we must look at ourselves and our relationship with the Lord and ask Him if**

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we truly are ready for this Great Commission challenge. We must allow the Lord to invigorate us.

How? Draw leader's attention to Handout 2

1. Reading the Bible
2. Prayer
3. Sharing your faith
4. Accountability
5. Scripture Memory
6. Regular Worship Attendance
7. Attending Bible Study
8. Ministry
9. Godly Character
10. Obedience to Christ

Check yourself? In what area do you need **Invigorating from the Lord?** As they look over the handout have them take some time to pray about whatever God has in store for them as leaders on the journey.

The first lane is foundational for developing your students and the culture of invitation.

Step 3: Incorporate Lane 2 (25 Minutes)

Say: To cross the lane of Incorporate we must know whom we are reaching in order to serve them best. Who are the students we are trying to reach? What are their likes, dislikes and needs? **Say:** Take a moment in your groups to draw a typical student from your area, neighborhood or local school. Use the large tear sheet located in the middle of your circle. Talk about their likes and dislikes and be ready to share them with the group. Take a few moments to walk around and look over the drawings that the groups are working on. After 10 minutes have each group share their target student and describe how they are going to reach this student. **Say:** We have to know the students we are incorporating in order to reach them. What are some of the other roadblocks to reaching this teenager? Allow the leaders to dive into the answers and then draw their attention to Handout 3.

1. Lack of committed leaders
2. Students don't welcome outsiders
3. Leaders teach curriculum not led by holy spirit
4. Lecture teach vs. activity based learning
5. Life and truth never meet
6. Leaders hang out with popular students
7. No intentional outreach
8. Students don't interact

*** Optional:** It would also be helpful to know the scope of the mission and size of the opportunity as we incorporate in order to minister to our students. Use Handout 3 to record your numbers from the following calculations. Following directions

1. Record the number of middle schools or junior high schools that are represented in your class (or church). Above that number write the average enrollment in each school. Multiply the two numbers. (Example: 3 middle schools, with average enrollment of 400 each, would equal 1200 total students)
2. Record the number of high schools that are represented in your class (or church). Above that number write the average enrollment in each school. Multiply the two numbers. (Example 3 high schools, with average enrollment 400 each, would equal 1200 students)
3. Now total both numbers from 1 and 2.
That is the scope of your mission, which makes it a major priority to invigorate and incorporate to create a culture of invitation. (Handout 4)

Let's change lanes.

Step 4: Intercede Lane 3 (10 Minutes)

Have the leaders open I-6 by David Francis and direct them to the appendix, page 48, where the FRANs information is listed. While you are talking about interceding have them look over this sheet as they write their prayer lists and their students.

Say: In developing a culture of Invitation we must lead our students to Intercede for their Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbors - our FRANs. This is a very slow lane but we must keep it moving along and stick with it. This lane is "the key if you hope to develop a culture of Invitation." (pg. 26) Who are your students' FRANs? Do we know? In order for us to lead our students to intercede we must also be praying for our students' outreach list. In the room you will find a F-R-A-N on the tear sheets with the corresponding letter. Place a post-it note with the name of one of your students' F- R-A-N's. Take time to discuss how many knew some of their students' FRANs. Say: The next step is for you to use a different colored post-it note and put up your own FRANs. The reason we use a different colored post-it is so we can tell which are the students' and which are the leaders' post-its. We are the example. If we are not praying for our FRANs, why will our students care about their FRANs?

Step 5: Invest Lane 4 (20 Minutes)

Say: As we change lanes, we now will look at some of the lives Jesus invested in and how He met their needs and challenged them to be part of something bigger than themselves. Each group will have a different passage assignment and will use the sentence strip to answer the assignment questions. (Handout 5) If you have more than 5 groups have two groups reading the same passages.

Assignments discussion answers:

1. Luke 5:1-11- Jesus helped Simon Peter, James and John catch many fish and then invested in them as disciples. He also challenged them to leave everything and follow Him and later we know that they were used to tell the world about Jesus.
2. Luke 5:17 – 26 – Jesus healed a paralytic man and invested in his life by forgiving his sin. Because Jesus had invested in the Paralytic man, his life was changed and he left praising God. When our lives have been changed by Jesus we do not quickly forget.
3. Luke 9:10 – 17 – Jesus fed the five thousand. Jesus used a little boy's lunch to feed five thousand +. He invested in the little boy and His disciples by using them to serve. He invested in the people by providing for their need. He gave them reason to praise with the abundance.
4. John 2: 1-11 – Jesus changed the water into wine to meet the need of the bridegroom and guests. He invested in the servants because He showed only them and the bridegroom the miracle He performed.
5. John 11:38-44 – Jesus Heals Lazarus. Jesus meets the need of Mary and Martha by healing Lazarus. He also challenges everyone by allowing them to see the Glory of God. Jesus also challenged the faith of Mary and Martha when He showed them He was a God they could trust.

These scriptures and assignment question can be found in Handout 5. After allowing each group five minutes to read the scriptures and discuss their answers, hang the sentence strips one by one and allow the large group to hear their answers of how Jesus Invested in people and challenged them for the future.

Say: Along with following the perfect model of Jesus for Investing in order to become more inviting, how can our churches/student ministries/classes invest in our communities? This investment leads people in our community to want to hear and experience our church and the Savior. As they share ways to invest, write their answers on a tear sheet. (Examples: We have skateboarders in our area, We could host a skateboard night, build a ramp for the community. The student ministry could host a community wide movie night to reach the students, 5th Quarters, etc.)

Step 6 – Invite Lane 5 (20 Minutes)

Say: Finally, we have reached the invite lane. All of the other four lanes we have crossed pave the way for the invitation. Turn to page 34 in I-6. In the last paragraph, it discusses research done by David Du-rey. In this research David asked the question, "What attracted you to this

church." The answer, "Over 70 percent of the new Christians interviewed responded by saying it was a personal invitation from someone they knew and trusted." How do we invite today's student to the institution of church and why would they stay? (Handout 6)

- Be Relevant
- Holy Spirit Led
- Blogs, Vlogs, MySpace
- IPODS
- Authentic Relationships
- Know the Student's Name
- Train Up Leaders
- Multiply Yourself Into Others

This leads us to the last lane involve. Let's change lanes on the topic of multiplication.

Step 7: Involve Lane 6 (25 minutes)

Say: We hit the last lane on Involve. This lane will drive it home. We need each other. In the next 3 minutes I want each group to get with another group and build a car with your bodies. Every person must be involved. Go. As they are building, walk around and observe. Take note of who leads, who waits for instruction, who jumps in and knows exactly what part of the car they want to be and who takes the left over car parts. Call time and bring them back together and as time permits, allow them to share what part of the car they were and why.

Say: What part of the car were you and why? Just like a car needs every part - the tires, engine, steering wheel and windshield wipers - we need each other. We must involve every student in the Great Commission because it is a team effort when someone comes to know Christ. Paul wrote some sow, some water, but God brings the increase.

We must:

- Involve students in outreach to other students
- Involve students based on their gifts
- Involve students who are new to the group
- Involve student who are new believers to invite their FRANS
- Involve the Holy Spirit

Are you involving more or are you trying to do it on your own?

Step 8: Closing (10 Minutes)

Say: We have been on a road trip down 1-6 that led us across many lanes of traffic: What have we learned and experienced? Go through each lane and let the leaders talk about one thing from each lane. Listed below are the keys to each lane. If they do not get it, you can help them along with these answers:

- Invigorate, which leads us to recharge ourselves and our areas.
- Incorporate, which leads us to ask "Who are these students?" in order for us to be able to serve them best.
- Intercede, which leads us to pray for our FRANS and our students' FRANS.
- Invest, which leads us to look at the perfect model, Jesus, who invested to meet challenging needs.
- Invite, which leads us to talk about how to invite and who to invite.
- Involve, which leads us to remember the Great Commission is a team assignment and no one can do it alone.

What was your fondest memory on this trip and what was your hardest road block? There is a reason you are here and in this car on the journey. What action plan do you need to take when you get home? Take a few moments and seek God. Write down one souvenir you plan to take home to help your students develop a culture of invitation. Get out of the car and tell your students about your road trip down 1-6.