



WE DON'T JUST WELCOME PEOPLE INTO OUR CHURCH. **WE INVITE THEM.**

Jesus is an invitational God: "Come and follow me." We're committed to following his example. Jesus told us to love our neighbors and to make disciples. Both neighboring and discipleship begin with relationship and relationship always involves invitation.

As followers of Jesus and as a church that wants to see people experience the love of Christ, we do not simply wait for people to come to us. Jesus did not do that.

We invite people to worship with us, to come to a B3 Group, to join us for dinner in our homes, to check us out and to share the journey as we respond to God's love and follow Jesus together.

We know inviting people to church isn't always easy. Explore the resources in this packet for practical insights and creative ways you can help us connect with more of our neighbors who could use a great church family like Village Church Rolesville. You may be surprised at the ways God uses you!

What would it look like if everyone invited one person to Village Church Rolesville every week?

Who will you invite?



JESUS IS THE EXAMPLE.

He shows us how to invite.

Pray: (For two at 2pm). Pray for one person you could invite next week. Pray for another person for whom your heart aches to experience Jesus who might not be ready for an invitation yet. Do it at 2pm every day!

Start with people you know. We all have people in our lives we could invite right now.

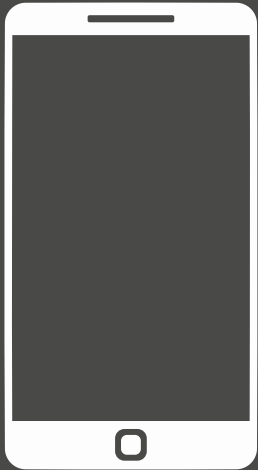
Listen for opportunities. The Holy Spirit provides moments where someone would be most open to an invitation.

Risk an invitation. Lean into Jesus' love for you and embrace the awkward!

Let go of outcomes. Trust God's grace to be at work no matter the result of the invitation.

CONSIDER YOUR CONTACTS

YOU KNOW A LOT MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU THINK!



Ever get stumped about who you could invite to VCR? Sometimes it feels like we just don't know anybody. But the truth is each of us knows tons of people! Think about how many contacts are in your phone. Think about how many 'friends' you have on social media. Could there be people you know who might need a church family like VCR right now?

WHAT TO DO

Take a few minutes to scroll and see! Pull up your contacts and/or your list of social media followers. Look through the list and think prayerfully about: Who's in the area? Who might be open to an invitation? Who might be interested to hear about your experience with VCR? Then shoot them a text, send them a message, or just invite them to 'like' the VCR page. See the template below for the kind of message you could send:

WHAT TO SAY

"Hey (name of person you are inviting) it's (your name) from (how you know them). Hope you are doing well! (Add a personal note, like 'It can be so hard with little ones!' or 'I hope your new job is going well!') I wanted to invite you to check out my church, if you're up for it. (Tell them why you think VCR might be a good fit for them specifically, if you can. Show them that you want something **for** them, not **from** them.) Here's our website: www.vcrolesville.org. I'm happy to help you get connected if it seems like a good fit. I'd love for you to join me for worship on (specific date). If not, no worries. Hope all is well!"

LOOK FOR TRANSITIONS

As people enter new seasons of life, they're often in need of support and community. So as we see people going through a life transition, it's a great opportunity to invite them to Village Church Rolesville.



NOTICE THE 'NEW'

Keep an eye out for opportunities to invite people who are: new to the area, new parents, newly unemployed, newly divorced, newly empty-nesters, new to their job, etc.

LISTEN FOR ONE OF THE THREE "NOTS"

If you hear someone say one of the following phrases, they're probably in a transition. So it could be a good time to invite them to VCR:

"it's not going well"

When people share that some part of their life is not going well, they often need support, encouragement, and community. We've got plenty of that at VCR! So invite them to check us out.

"i'm not prepared for"

When people feel unprepared for a new season of life, they often need support, encouragement, and community. We've got plenty of that at VCR! So invite them to check us out.

"i'm not into church"

When people say this, there's a story there. Ask about it. In many cases they'll tell you about a church very different from VCR. Then you can say, 'I'm so sorry! But my church isn't like that. Come see for yourself!'



HOW TO HELP VCR ON THE WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



@vcrolesville

THE BOTTOM LINE

'Like,' 'comment,' or 'share,' VCR's posts every time you see them, because that will cause Facebook and Instagram to show the posts to more people. Social media is one of the most powerful tools at our disposal for reaching people who need a church family like VCR. But to do this effectively, we need your help! Please give a five star review on Google for VCR to help more people see it when they search for a church!

ENGAGEMENT 101

Behind the complex algorithms that determine what shows up when we scroll through Facebook or Instagram, there's a pretty basic formula: A post that generates more user engagement gets shown to more people, and a post that generates less user engagement gets shown to fewer people.

'User engagement' is anytime a user stops scrolling to 'like,' 'comment' on, or 'share' a post. If our posts generate lots of user engagement, tons of people will see them. Facebook and Instagram will assume people are very interested in VCR. So if we want to use social media to connect with more people, we need user engagement!. We need you to engage VCR's posts as much as you can in order to reach more people who may need a church family like VCR. Never scroll by a VCR post without taking a second to engage it! As we all make this a habit, hundreds and even thousands more people have the opportunity to hear about our church.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

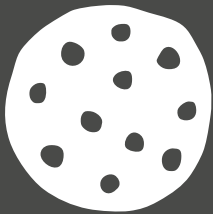


When people are new to the area, they're often looking for community. So when we encounter folks who've just moved into the neighborhood, that's a great opportunity for us to help them connect with Village Church Rolesville. And it's easy!



WATCH FOR MOVING TRUCKS

When you see a moving truck in your neighborhood with people unloading, that's your cue.



BAKE SOME COOKIES

Bake some cookies or another treat for your new neighbor.



WRITE A NOTE & DROP IT ALL OFF

Write a quick note welcoming your new neighbor and inviting them to check out VCR. Here's a template you can use: Welcome to the neighborhood! My name is (your name) and I live down the street at (your address). I hope that your move went smoothly. Please let me know if you have any questions about the area. P.S. Not sure if you're into church, but I go to Village Church Rolesville (vcrolesville.org) and I love it. Check it out, if you're interested –if not, no worries. Glad you're here! Sincerely, (Name, contact info)

Drop off the cookies and note with your neighbors!