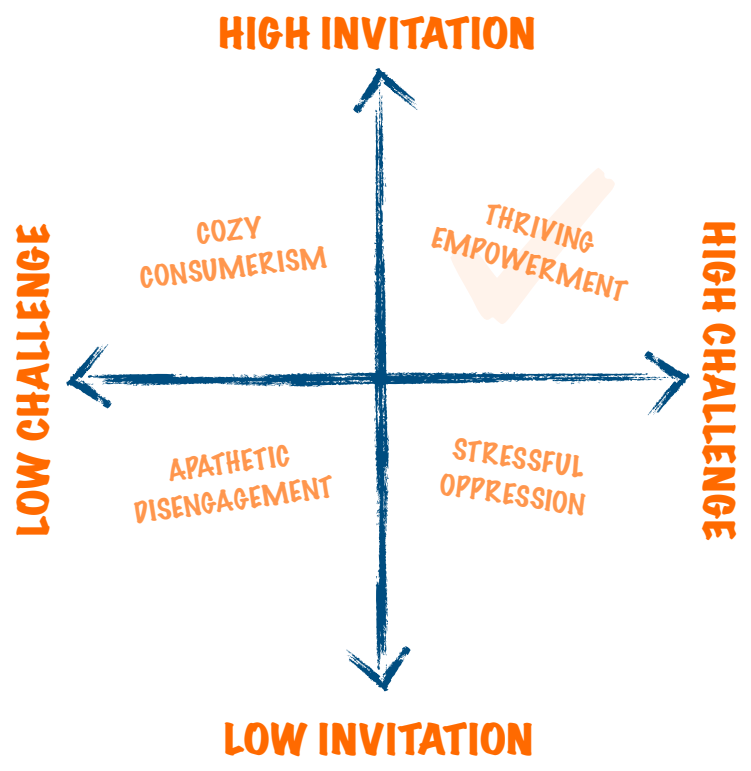


Jesus had a unique ability to be highly inviting and highly challenging with everyone. All people mattered to Jesus, but they also mattered enough to challenge them to change. A person like this is certainly attractive to others, but a dynamic like this is also essential for making disciples. How can you do the same? **Draw a matrix, just two lines with arrows pointing out...**



LOW INVITATION + LOW CHALLENGE creates apathy. If no one knows or cares about you personally, and no one cares what you do or how you do it, then why bother? Disengagement rules in this corner.

LOW INVITATION + HIGH CHALLENGE creates stress. If no one cares about you personally, and only cares what you do or how you do it, then I only matter as much as I produce the next win or good thing. Discouragement rules in this oppressive corner.

HIGH INVITATION + LOW CHALLENGE creates consumerism. If you're always accepted, even when you don't contribute or worse—when you do things wrong, then why bother changing at all? Coziness rules in this corner.

HIGH INVITATION + HIGH CHALLENGE creates stress. If you know you're cared for and accepted, but that care also cares to challenge what you do and improve how you do it, then what can't be faced and changed? People thrive and are empowered in this corner.

THE INVITATION | JESUS IN MATTHEW 16:13-19

How does Jesus talk with His disciples here?
As Peter gives a God-centered answer, how does Jesus respond to him?

Based on this, can you get a sense of "invitation"?
How would you feel if you were Peter and Jesus were talking to you? If Jesus were looking you in the eye at this moment, would you feel safety? Known? Supported?

THE CHALLENGE | JESUS IN MATTHEW 16:21-25

How does Jesus talk with His disciples here?
As Peter is clearly not aligned with God's concerns, how does Jesus respond to him? What's is Jesus challenging?

Based on this, can you get a sense of "challenge"?
How would you feel if you were Peter and Jesus were talking to you? If Jesus were looking you in the eye at this moment, would you feel challenged? Spurred to move? Realize that this is the same Jesus you've followed, and He's not changed nor has His love for you.

THE INVITATION | JESUS IN LUKE 12:22-27

How does Jesus talk with His disciples here?
As Jesus describes God's care, what do you feel?

Based on this, what is Jesus' "invitation" to us?
Jesus seems to increase what we know of God and the trust we can place on Him. He invites us to know Him better, and as we know Him, to let anxiety leave us.

THE CHALLENGE | JESUS IN LUKE 12:28-34

How does Jesus talk with His disciples here?
As Jesus speaks more pointedly, what do you feel?

Based on this, what is Jesus' challenge to us?
Jesus seems to go right to the heart of it – expand your faith and embrace what's true about God! He challenges us to demonstrate our trust by intentionally *not* seeking daily concerns like others do but instead intentionally seeking to live in alignment God's Kingdom each day. He even goes so far as to challenge us to separate with our most treasured possessions to pursue this Kingdom life!

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND INTENTIONAL ACTION

WE TEND TO OFFER WHAT WE'VE RECEIVED OR IMITATE WHAT WE'VE EXPERIENCED. WHAT HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED FROM PEOPLE OF INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE? WHAT ARE YOU REPEATING IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS RIGHT NOW?

WHO COMES TO MIND THAT COULD USE MORE "HIGH INVITATION" FROM YOU RIGHT NOW? AND WHAT ABOUT "HIGH CHALLENGE"? HOW WILL YOU START TO OFFER THAT TO THEM?

IF I ASKED YOUR SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS WHAT THEY RECEIVE FROM YOU, WHAT WOULD THEY SAY? WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO CHANGE THAT STARTING TODAY?

LET'S GET ACCOUNTABLE TO BE EMPOWERING DISCIPLES. WHAT HIGH INVITATION / HIGH CHALLENGE BEHAVIORS CAN YOU COMMIT TO PRACTICE WITH ME?

ADDITIONAL HELP AND RESOURCES

FOR CHALLENGE & INVITATION – THE "ONE ANOTHER'S": Find "one another's" in Scripture; brainstorm how you could engage those with others. Commit to be a transformative presence for King Jesus in the life of those around you. Matrix-living starts with being responsible for others.

HELP WITH INVITATION: Think about how to make someone feel valuable; give opportunities for others to contribute to you or the task at hand; use names, smile, and look people in the eye; think about how your body language communicates invitation. Initiate relationship and offer safety before the other person does. Be invitational!

- HELP WITH CHALLENGE:** Use CPR; unbundle the issue; describe the gap; contrast your intent; and maintain safety with them. Consider these concepts as described below as you take on challenging conversations with others!
- **CPR:** C for Content = what happened, just the facts. P for Pattern = what keeps happening and the consequences. R for Relationship = what's happening to us because of these issues or the violation of boundaries and trust.
 - **Unbundle the Issue:** Separate the clear actions/consequences from any assumed intentions. Speak to what, not why. Stay external (what you saw happen) rather than internal (conclusions you draw about what happened).
 - **Describe the Gap:** Simply describe the gap between what's expected (or true) vs. what you saw (or have seen). Don't provide conclusions about intent and don't play games or make them guess. Get right to the gap and give an opportunity for their side of the issue (perhaps by asking a question like "Is that what happened?" or "Did I miss something?"). Be humble and allow them to correct your perception in this gap.
 - **Contrast Your Intent:** Anticipate how they might perceive this and be clear "I'm *not* saying..."; "Don't hear..."; etc.
 - **Maintain Safety:** People feel safe when they can see, hear, and feel clear mutual respect and mutual purpose. Show you care about them by showing you respect their opinions and that you care about their goals.