

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: iGo Pt. 4

Who 2 Tell

Jesse Rider, High School Pastor

Weekend 12.10-11.11

My name is Jesse Rider. I'm on of the Student Ministry pastors here at Crossroads. Pastor Tim is currently away. He's at the House Church Pastors Retreat. He's leading that up at Camp Burton this weekend so it's kind of exciting for them but while they're gone I'm going to finish up this series called iGo. The iGo series is based on just developing a personal understanding of what evangelism is. So, if you've not been here for the past couple of weeks let me kind of catch you up what we've covered through the last three weeks of iGo.

The first week Pastor Tim started with a week called Why 2 Tell. We learned it is a privilege and an act of obedience and becomes part of our worship when we evangelize. Often times we get in this mindset that we are the consumer of the church – the church should pour into us so we can reap the rewards. But if the church is really poured into you then you should be willing to serve the church through worship, through serving, through giving and through evangelizing. You know a great way to figure out how you would answer that is think about how you would answer this question. Is the church here to serve me or am I here to serve the church? See, I want to make sure we get this and sometimes I like to read different Internet blogs or Internet posts. I don't like to read the same ones over and over. It gets a little monotonous. But I'll just read different ones on occasion and see what people think and there was one that was called How Many of You only go to Church on Christmas and Easter? That was the name of the post that day. And so I thought I'll read that. I'm curious. And this is what he wrote about it: I'm curious to see if anyone will answer truthfully and then let me know why you even bother going on those days. It drives me nuts to see everyone come out of the woodwork just disrupt everything on Christmas and Easter at church. Those of us that go every week should not have to stand in the back due to over crowding on Christmas just because people think it's traditional to go on those days? Shouldn't it be traditional to go every week?

He goes on. He kind of clarifies his statement a little bit. He thought maybe that was a bit harsh. The thing is it wouldn't drive me nuts if everyone came every week. My point is if they don't feel it necessary to come every week and just on the two big holidays of the year why are they going at all? Ok. And then the one response this post was this: I go to church every week and I hate it when people I've never seen suddenly come to church only on Easter and Christmas. All they do is take up all the space in the church and then we have to stand. I mean, what's the use? They never come to church to hear the Word of God but now they want to come. It really irritates me.

Now these are guys are going to church and this is their outlook so I want to make sure we get it. The mission statement of Crossroads is to turn irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ. This comes straight from Matthew chapter 28, verse 19. It says, go therefore, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them all that I have commanded you and behold I am with you always. So, I want to make sure we get there. That is our mission statement. That is our goal here at Crossroads.

In the second week Pastor Tim talked about What 2 Tell. He kind of gave us the confidence of understanding that God is using us for something; something probably even more than we can fathom at this point right now. And then last week he gave us a very practical way on how to tell the Gospel. And I

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: iGo Pt. 4

Who 2 Tell

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Weekend 12.10-11.11

know that people have used that on napkins, on the front page of their bible, on the back of business notes. The thing is you have to prepare yourself with prayer ahead of time to know your opportunities and so I get the chance today, I'm going to finish this series up and I'm going to talk about Who 2 Tell. Who are we supposed to evangelize to? And I know there's a wide variety of people in this room right now. Some of you immediately know who God has put in your life who you need to share the Gospel with. But others of us you may not have met that person yet so we're going to figure out how do we discern who it is we're supposed to share the Gospel with and we're going to use scripture kind of as our guide as we're going through this. The scripture I want to use is found in 1 John, chapter 3, verse 16 so go ahead and open up that passage now. 1 John, chapter 3, verse 16. It will be on the side screens as well but I want to make sure we understand this.

It says, by this we know love that He laid down His life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But is anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need yet closes his heart against him how does God's love abide in him? Little children let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. The true test of love is not one's verbal profession of it with the words but his willingness to help and thus to love with actions and in truth.

So, step one is very simple. Step one from this passage is simply to pray. If you're doing the fill in the blanks step one is to pray. And there are two things initially I want you to pray for. The first thing I want you to pray for is to pray for awareness; that you become aware of the family, of your company, of a team or whatever group you're involved with – you become aware of those people. But not only aware of the people aware of the needs of the people. That's the first thing I want you to pray for. Then I want you to pray for knowledge because now you've prayed for the awareness and now we're praying for knowledge to know what to do with the awareness that we see. So, we pray first for awareness; then for knowledge. See, when you consistently make this your prayer your outlook on things changes. The way you view things or situations or people begins to change. Often times, when you pray to God for light, to give you light sometimes you still need to get up and turn on the switch. The light is available you just have to use it.

So, if we're praying for awareness step two becomes we need to BE aware. We need to be aware. I think a great example of being aware in scripture is found in Acts chapter 16, verse 25. Turn with me in your bibles to Acts 16:25 and we're actually going to start, I'm going to jump in the middle of the story here but in Acts 16 it starts with Paul and Silas and they're missionaries to this land and they go and they're beginning to just share the Gospel to these people and they develop a large following. And as people would come to here they talk about the Gospel and so this slave girl begins to see the crowd that these guys are attracting. So, she begins to mimic what they're saying but the difference is she begins to take money from the people saying this is how this will work. You pay me and I'll let your requests be known to God. So, she began taking money from them. Well, Paul and Silas found out about this and it went on for days and they cast this demon out of her. Once that happened their owners got upset because now they didn't have any way to make money. So, they turn Paul and Silas into the magistrate and as their punishment they're stripped and beaten publically. Then they're thrown into jail and that's where we're going to pick up in this story.

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: iGo Pt. 4

Who 2 Tell

Jesse Rider, High School Pastor

Weekend 12.10-11.11

Verse 25. It says, about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, to the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..." You see, Paul and Silas had every opportunity to miss that opportunity. They could have complained about the physical pain, about the situation, about the wrong doings, about the injustice, how it wasn't fair. They could have complained about any of those things but instead they didn't. They used that as an opportunity to worship God. Often times I find myself, when I'm teaching I reference this passage a lot because it's a great example of someone just being aware of the needs of the people around them. And you see an immediate result from it. And we look at this and we kind of get to see more of Paul's mindset.

Flip over now to Colossians chapter 4 and you're going to see what kind of led Paul to be able to do this. It kind of reveals his mindset a little bit. Colossians chapter 4, verse 2. In Colossians 4 Paul begins to talk about the different things that his mindset was set on when he was in prison. In verse 2 he says, continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door of the Word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – that I may make it clear how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

If you have your own bible I want you to underline some words for me in verse 2. I want you to underline the words continue, prayer and watchful. See, these three words have kind of set our steps up so far. Continue, prayer and watchful. So often we quick to judge or make excuses or form opinions or form someone's story for them. Maybe based on appearance or something they've said or done that we've formed the rest of their history for them. Often times in our culture especially we judge people, label people, stereotype people. And we forget the most important thing – they are people. You know, let me share a story with you about a lady and her husband vacationing. I think you'll get the point.

It says – About eight years ago, my husband and I completed a church internship in Juneau, Alaska. I could tell you a thousand wonderful things that we learned that summer, but there is one profound story that will stick to my soul until I die. The lesson I learned didn't come from reading a book on theology or words from a seasoned pastor. The lesson I learned was taught to me by my three year-old daughter. Let me paint the picture for you: My husband and I decided to take the ferry from Juneau to Haines, AK. We got on the ferry with our two kids. The ferry was packed with people so we had to split up to find seats; he took our son, and I took our daughter. Kate and I walked to the front of the ferry and saw two open seats next to a very disheveled man. I took the seat next to the man, and Kate sat down to my right.

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: iGo Pt. 4

Who 2 Tell

Jesse Rider, High School Pastor

Weekend 12.10-11.11

Immediately I noticed the man's smell. I looked over at him and gave him a courteous nod, taking note of his greasy hair and beard. In my eyes it was going to be a long four hours. There was something about this man caught Kate's attention. She kept leaning over me to look at the man and it started to become a little uncomfortable. I tried to distract her, but she kept leaning over to stare at him. Immediately thoughts started running through my head about what she might say. Was she going to say something about his dirty clothes? His greasy beard? His smell? I looked over at the man and smiled awkwardly. Finally Kate leaned over, looked the man in the eyes, and in her little voice said, "Hi, Jesus." Kate thought she was sitting next to Jesus. The man was so touched by her words. He smiled and told me that was the nicest thing that anyone had ever said to him. Instantly I knew that my little Kate had seen things in this man that I had failed to see. She saw more than smelly clothes and greasy long hair. She saw a person that was worthy of love and respect. Kate got it right. After saying hello, Kate spent the rest of the trip coloring and playing with her toys. But little did she know on that day, she taught her mom a very important lesson. Her two words taught me more about God's love than all the books I read in seminary. Kate showed how to see with new eyes. I will never forget the man, the words, or the lesson that I learned on that ferry to Haines.

You know, we do that in our culture. We see someone and based on appearance we form a story for them or we form a history for them or we figure something out about them and just assume something. And often times in doing that we miss the opportunity of the person. Which brings us to step three. Step three again is to pray. Earlier I asked you to make these verse your prayer but I want to continue to make these verses. 1 John 3:16 - By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. Earlier I had you pray for awareness and knowledge. Now the next thing you're praying for is praying for that opportunity, the opportunity to just to be there and be present and for you to realize it.

Let me share a little bit about myself. When I first started coming to Crossroads I got involved with the group here called KIA. It stood for Kindness in Action. This was when we were up at the old building. And I desperately wanted this opportunity. I wanted the opportunity to share the Gospel or just share with someone. So I wanted this opportunity and I thought that KIA would be the way for me to do that. So we gathered together and I found out they were going to a shelter downtown and I thought this is perfect. I'll get to interact with some of the people there and I know I'll have an opportunity. So I'm pretty excited and as we're leaving the church to head to the shelter they begin to pass out paint brushes. Now, I need to tell you something about myself. I am a terrible, terrible painter. Don't ask me to paint anything. It will end in disaster. That being said as we're passing out paint brushes I get a little upset because I'm thinking where's the opportunity in painting? How am I going to be painting and get a chance to go and share with somebody?

So, we go down there and I almost had this, kind of like, it's beneath me attitude; that I shouldn't be doing this. I should be able to talk to somebody. So, my strategy was we get in this room and we're

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: iGo Pt. 4

Who 2 Tell

Jesse Rider, High School Pastor

Weekend 12.10-11.11

supposed to be painting but my strategy was I'm going to stay in this small corner and just paint the same thing over and over and over because I'm not a good painter and I didn't want that to become a big thing so I don't want to mess things up. So I'll just stay in my small corner and I'll keep painting. And this little boy comes up to me and he says can I help you paint. I'm thinking I've got this. If I give him the brush and the stuff everyone will think he was the one who is making the mess and is doing a terrible job. So, I hand my stuff off to him and say certainly little buddy. Paint away. And as he's there and we begin to talk about, you know, he's a junior higher at the time. We just talk about junior high boy things. We talk about sports and video games and TV shows and things like that. And we keep going and eventually we finish painting. We clean up the supplies and we go out front and we keep talking. And he begins to share with me about his family and what his family had been through and what brought them to this place. And he started asking questions about me. He said well, what do you do? I said I teach middle school at a church up the road here. He said really? I would love to go to church. I'm like really? That's awesome. I said, tell you what. I'll pick you up tonight and I'll take you to church. You'll be in my class. He says ok. He's excited. I get to his house that night and I pick him up and his mom comes to the door. She's very grateful that I'm willing to take him and he gets to go to church. She knows he enjoys it. Then all of a sudden these two younger boys come running to the door – we want to go, we want to go, we want to go. And the mom - Well, they can be a bit of a hand full. That's alright...bring them on. I load all three boys. We head to the church. I kind of give them a tour of the building and show them what goes on. The boys were in the elementary age so I signed them into the Elementary room and I take the other boy with me to the Middle School room.

About halfway through my message that night, towards the end of the service the doors to the Middle School room just fly open and in come these two little boys. And then in comes security. And then in comes the teachers. Guys – what are you doing in here? You're supposed to be in class. We just wanted to come say hi. Ok. You have to stay in your room until I come get you after class. Ok. So, they run out, they run them back to their room and security is running after them and teachers. After church was over I remember I said let's go get something to eat and we go out and we get some food. We're just hanging out and talking. I said, let's do this again next week. I'll pick you up. I'll bring you back to church. They're excited about it. I remember about being excited about these opportunities in front me and the following week I get there. I go to their house and I knock on the door and no one's home. No one's home. I remember I was a little discouraged. I thought we had made plans. It didn't quite go exactly as I had planned. Ok. No big deal. Next week I'll come get them. The following week I show up to the house. I knock on the door. No one's home and not only is no one home I realize that all of their stuff is now gone. Something in their life had happened that required them to move out of that house. I had no way to get in contact with them.

I tell you that to let you know that sometimes we see this opportunity we're praying for and if you're like me I very much visualize how something should go; how an event should go or a conversation should go or something like that. I visualize how I want it to go and this was not how I visualized that. I didn't visualize this as a one time thing and then never again do I talk to them. So sometimes with those opportunities you have to be prepared and understand that it's not your plan; that you're part of a bigger

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: iGo Pt. 4

Who 2 Tell

Jesse Rider, High School Pastor

Weekend 12.10-11.11

plan that you may not understand and it can be a little frustrating. You may have to overcome adversity or may not go exactly how you had planned out.

In fact, I have a good example of this. A couple weeks ago I wanted to take my daughter who is almost two, I wanted to take her to just a fun play date. My wife and I are very committed to just making sure that I can take her out, basically take her on a date and she turns forty and she's allowed to date, (I'm not sure why everyone's laughing. It's not a joke), that somebody will know how to treat her right. And so I get the idea that I'm going to take her on a play date, just something fun for her to kind of hang out and we'll have a good time together. She loves animals and in particular she loves dogs. So I thought oh great. I'll take her to the dog shelter. We'll go there and in my head I pictured we'll get a little puppy. We'll take it to the play room. We'll have a nice little time. So we get to the dog shelter. I don't know if you've ever been to the dog shelter before. On the left of it is small dogs and puppies. On the right side is large dogs. I'm no dummy. I'm not going to the large dog side. So we go to the small dog side. We open the door to the small dog side. Now, I've been to the dog shelter but I've not been to the dog shelter in the eyes of a two year old. So, we open the door and as soon as we open the door it is like a huge competition among the dogs to who can get her attention the fastest. They do so by jumping up and down, pawing at the cage, barking, growling and whatever else dogs do. They begin to do all this. She's scared to death. She clings on to me. I have to pick her up and hold her and she's hanging on for dear life. I'm thinking this is not exactly how I'd planned this day. And so, do you want to get a little puppy and we'll take it into the playroom? She said yes. I could have said anything and she would have said yes to get out of that room. It was like a little doggy prison. So we find this little puppy and we take it into the playroom and my daughter is still kind of scared because it was somewhat traumatic for her now. I think the puppy's also scared now because here's two people it's never met and suddenly took it. So, we get into the playroom and I'm petting the dog and settle the dog down, trying to settle my daughter down. Finally she gets the confidence to reach out and pet the dog and I don't know if the dog didn't like kids. It was having a rough day but as my daughter reached out to pet the dog it turned, jumped and yelped at my daughter. Which in turn made my daughter turn, jump and scream at me. I remember carrying my crying daughter and this scared little dog and thinking this is not how I planned this day.

I tell you that to let you know that sometimes when you plan these things out or you know the opportunity it may not go exactly as you planned it out. We've got to be able to be a little bit flexible and overcome adversity within the opportunity.

Now, so the first thing we pray for is opportunity. But now we know why you're supposed to do it. You know how you're supposed to do it and you believe you know the situation. So, the second thing we pray for then is courage because you know all the things about the story. Now you just need the courage to do so which leads us to step four. Step four kind of gives you that courage and that's to act and to pray. So in the middle of that opportunity that you pray. Maybe it's just a silent prayer to yourself on the drive there, on the way there, in the middle of the conversation. The reason you're praying during the midst of it you remember what your goal is. It helps you keep focused. So, step four is to act and to pray.

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: iGo Pt. 4

Who 2 Tell

Jesse Rider, High School Pastor

Weekend 12.10-11.11

Now, let's talk specifically about inviting someone to an event. According to the Barna Group, which is a statistic research company they say that people are forty-five percent more likely to come to church on Christmas more than any other Sunday of the year. So, what does that mean? That means that your opportunity to invite someone is coming because people are going to be more willing. So, let's talk about Christmas services. We know people are more willing to come on Christmas. Let's talk about actually how to invite someone. Before we talk about how to do it I want to talk about how NOT to do it because I know some of you in a difficult conversation or a unique conversation sometimes people just mix their words up or they get a little confused. So let me give you a few ways about how NOT to do it.

The first one is you don't want to try and intimidate someone to come to Crossroads. You don't want to try and scare them into it like – is there a reason you don't go to church or are you just stupid? What are my choices? Or try to deceive someone into coming to church – you should come to church. They're giving away free....kittens or whatever. Maybe kittens wouldn't bring someone to church. I don't know. Or use that idea of deception to try and get them here. Or you make just a sly remark just to make them feel bad. Like, whew, it's hot in here. You know where else is hot? Those aren't the way we want someone to come to church; not out of fear or deception or kind of being tricked into coming to church. We want people to come to church because they see the passion about your God, about your church, about your ministry. You're saying well then how do I show someone that passion I have about my God, my church or about my ministry?

Let me give you some ways to do that. If you've got a child in the children's ministry you could talk about what your child gets to do, like serving on the praise team or the children's choir or shop for The Store or things like that. If you serve on a team here just talk about why you serve. If you're on the parking team talk about why you do what you do. Let them see that you're passionate about your ministry but ultimately that you're passionate about your God and they'll be much more inclined to come to church because they see the passion in you and about what you love and about what you're doing for your God.

Just practical things. If you're inviting someone instead of something like saying you should come with me sometime say why don't you come with me this Sunday. Give them a specific day, specific time. Don't leave it open and vague. Give them a specific invitation. If you're bringing someone to Crossroads I encourage you have them meet you at a specific place and time here. Remember the first time you came? It can be a little overwhelming here. Big building. Lots of people you don't know. Things going on – you don't know what's going on around you. Say meet me in the café this time. Give them a tour of the building. Let them kind of see what goes on around here. Take some initiative with the and help break down some of the barriers.

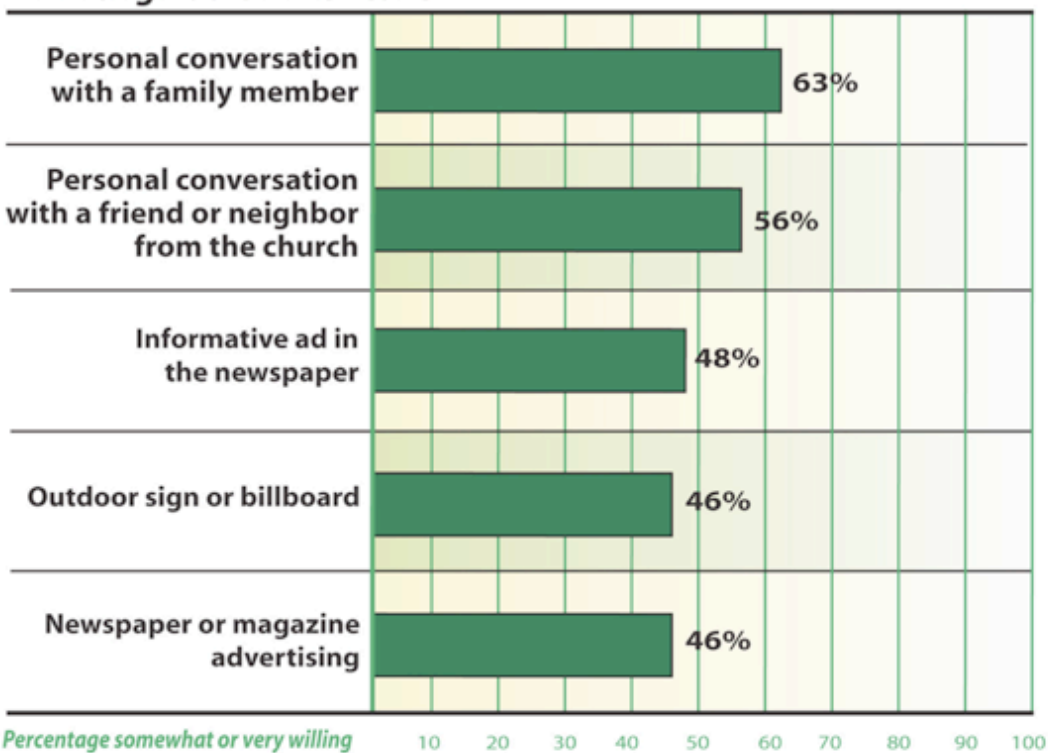
Another way, you'll notice in your program today or even in the chair back in front of you there's something called the Crossroads Card. It looks something like this. The idea is that this can follow up a

conversation for you. That if you've invited someone to Crossroads and they're interested you say why don't you talk it over with your family, pray about it. Give them one of these cards. It has the service times, the dates, information there – things that they'll need to know. It's a great resource for you. I would encourage you to take some of these. These are for you to take and to use. So take it out of your program, out of the chair backs in front of you. Those are for you to use.

Let me show you a graph here because I want you to understand. Earlier we talked about the mission statement of Crossroads. In order for us to do that that kind of runs through here. This is the top five ways people are most willing to receive information about a local church.

## Top 5 ways people are most willing to receive information about a local congregation

*Among Adult Americans*



You see the top two revolve around you: a personal conversation with a family member or personal conversation with a friend or neighbor from church. Those are by far the top two. The other methods that are ok but by far the top two are these personal conversations or personal invitations. The research shows

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: iGo Pt. 4

Who 2 Tell

Jesse Rider, High School Pastor

Weekend 12.10-11.11

us the most effective way is through conversation. The billboards, the radio ads, the magazine ads, the newspaper – all that is great in addition to the invitation.

Let me show you another method of inviting someone. It's known as the Matthew Party Method. So let me explain to you what it is. Turn with me to your bibles to the book of Matthew, chapter 9. We're going to start at verse 10. We're going to talk about this Matthew party method. Matthew chapter 9, verse 10. This is what it says. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

So you're saying what is the Matthew Party Method. The idea of the Matthew Party is what Matthew did here was he was a former tax collector. In his time a tax collector was just an awful position. People viewed it as the lowest of lows. And so Jesus called him to be one of the disciples and in his experience with Jesus he said I realized I want my friends to experience what I've experienced with Jesus. And so he invites his nonbelieving friends to a party where his believing friends were there with the purpose of this. He's told his believing friends ahead of time when my nonbelieving friends get here I want you to introduce yourself, to welcome them, to encourage them, to invite them, to just be a friend to them. So the idea of the Matthew Party is that you host a party and that you prepare your friends ahead of time. You're mixing two friend groups. You have your nonbelieving friends and your believing friends and you tell your believing friends ahead of time when my friends get here I want you to really welcome them. Make them feel at home and prepare them for that.

The other way you can use the Mathew Party Method is if you're involved in a House Church. A House Church enables you to do the same thing. Where your House Church knows that someone is new here we want to make them feel welcome, like they're a part of our community. Sometimes using things like this can be a little less intimidating rather than going to a large church.

But let me encourage you with this. When you invite someone don't chicken out with it. Don't plan on doing something face to face and make it very important and you end up texting them or Facebook messaging or something like that. Because what happens is they can't see your passion through the invite. Now, certainly you can follow up with those methods but the initial invite – do it face to face so that they can see how passionate you are about your ministry, about your God and that it's important for them that you know they feel welcome.

So, we look at all these different methods and these ways to invite people and the question becomes but what if they say no? What if I invite someone to church and they say now, what if I ask to read my bible with them and they say no? It's ok. Don't take it personal. There are multiple, multiple reasons people don't want to go to church. Some think it's boring. Some think it's irrelevant. Some say the church just wants your money or they don't believe in church or God or religion or maybe they've had a previous bad experience at church. Don't take it personal. It may not be their time yet but regardless of their reaction we continue to live out the verses that we've been reading. 1 John, 3:16. By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: iGo Pt. 4

Who 2 Tell

Jesse Rider, High School Pastor

Weekend 12.10-11.11

world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Let me share a little bit about myself. When I first got started in ministry I was a sophomore or junior in High School and I started volunteering at an inner-city ministry. My job there was very simple. I got to read bible stories to the kids and then I would also help tutor in school subjects. And I would go there. I would share stories and there was this one boy who I helped with math every day. And one day he came up to me and began asking questions about the stories I had been reading. And very specific questions. I could tell he had been listening and he was very curious. And he began asking me what does it mean that Jesus died on the cross? What does it mean that I'm a sinner? I got a chance to explain the Gospel to him. It was a very exciting thing for me. I'm so excited I can tell he's just getting it. He's just understanding what I'm telling him and he becomes a believer. He says I want to go tell my teacher. I said awesome. Let's go tell your teacher. We'll pray together. It will be great. So he runs up. He finds his teacher. He says teacher, teacher. Guess what? What? He says, I believe in Moses. I'm thinking. That's not exactly what we had just covered. In his excitement he got a little confused and we went back and I corrected him in some ways. I would love to tell you that this boy grew up and he's now serving in ministry and he's doing excellent things but to be honest – I don't know.

Because step five is where I failed at. Being young in ministry I thought that was it. I thought I had done my duty. See, step five is to walk with them. I thought once he said he was a believer my job was done. We need to understand people are not a checkmark. They're not a result or an accomplishment for us and we can't just leave them after that decision. That just because they came to church with you or you got to read the bible or share the Gospel with them that doesn't mean the process is over. They need you to lead them, to guide them, to encourage them, to instruct them, you know to help overcome that adversity that they'll face. They will face it. They need you at that point to say all right, let's keep going. Let's keep doing this. You've got this.

Think of it with a sports team who has the goal of a championship but they don't have a coach. They can only go as far as they know. Eventually they may guess at something but they're going to get frustrated. And through the frustration they'll probably end up quitting or giving up. Our role for them is to come along side and be that leader for them. As we close today I want to pray for you. I want to pray for the opportunities that you're going to have; for the people you come in contact with and just to have the courage to use those abilities and after the prayer I want you to watch a short video message from Pastor Tim.

Let's pray together. Dear Lord we thank you for the time we have together. We thank you for the time to come before you and celebrate you and worship and love you. Lord, right now we pray for opportunities. That we'll be aware of our opportunities and that we'll be able to put aside any distraction of our opportunities. That we don't do it for selfish reasons, for a reward but we do it to further the kingdom of God. Lord, give us the courage to invite, to share, to love, to meet what ever need you put in front of us. Give us the courage to do so. We love you. Amen.