



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Conversation Starter: Make the Ask
July 30, 2017

Opening Questions:

- Share about the last time you borrowed something from someone who constantly reminded you that thing belonged to them. How was your experience using that thing? Did you borrow anything else from that person?
- In what ways might church people make unchurched friends feel this way? How do Christians sometimes just *lend out* church instead of *giving* it with an open hand? What are the driving forces behind that way of inviting?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Leviticus 19:33-34...** How do you suppose Israel might have taken advantage of, oppressed or mistreated foreigners? How do the modern people of God (the church) do the same to people outside our “tribe?”
- God’s rationale for this level of hospitality comes from Israel’s own time as strangers in Egypt. What parallels are there today between Israel and the church when it comes to previously being foreigners?
- What does treating someone as a “native-born” look like today? Why would that have been less than cool with Israel? Why might it be the same now?
- Read **Matthew 10:33-35...** The Samaritan clearly gives this man his time, money, and attention instead of loaning it to him; he doesn’t expect anything in return. Who in your life lives similarly? What area of your own life do you have the hardest time giving away?

Application Questions:

- This week’s bottom line was **WE’RE SUPPOSED TO MAKE OUR CHURCH THEIR CHURCH**. This means outsiders become insiders, what parts of you dislike this idea? How do you see yourself growing in this area?
- Josh challenged everyone to invite one person every week, who are you planning to invite this week? Does thinking through what you’re inviting them to, and the invitation coming from a heart genuinely wanting to share something, make this challenge more or less difficult?
- Dream for a minute: what does a church look like where everyone takes the mission personally? What does a church look like where strangers—outsiders—are welcomed in and made to feel like they belong from the beginning? What would a community look like where a church like that existed?

End your time together praying for the invitation that each person will be making in the next week. Ask God to give them courage and the person they’re inviting an open heart and mind. Ask God to blatantly provide a person to invite in each of the weeks ahead. Ask for his help in taking the mission he’s given us, personally.