

New or Visiting?

By Erin Davis Gibbons



If you're not a frequent churchgoer, you probably know a lot about visiting churches. If you worship regularly, when was the last time you welcomed someone new to your church? Consider different ways to respond as a visitor and as one who welcomes visitors.

For

Young Adult

Season

Summer

Needed

Wireless device, Internet access

Activity Plan

1. Most churches try to help visitors feel welcome, but sometimes they don't do a very good job of it. Have you been a visitor in a church? If so, what was it like? If you worship regularly, when was the last time you welcomed someone new to your church? Pray:

God, you know I want to tell others about you, but sometimes I don't do it well. Guide my words and actions to reach out to others. Help me be an expression of your love and care for all people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

2. Watch this YouTube video: [What if Starbucks Marketed Like a Church? A Parable.](#)
 - What is your first impression of this parable?
 - How would you feel visiting this coffee shop? Would you return for a second visit? Why or why not?
 - What might have made the experience better for the two visitors?
3. Think about your own experiences visiting churches or welcoming new people to your church. What made the experience good? What do you wish you would have done differently? Why do you think first-time visitors to a church sometimes feel awkward?
4. What can you learn from your experiences of being a church visitor or of welcoming visitors to help you welcome the new people you meet in your daily life?
5. If you have time, contact the pastor or minister of your church or a church you've visited recently. Start a conversation about what's good about the ministry with visitors and what could make it even better.