



Give Friday Nights to Jesus – August 03

Josh Hunt, Author of [You Can Double Your Class in Two Years or Less](#), shares some great growth principles and practical ideas that can be implemented in building ABFs. In Chapter 19, page 94 Josh writes, “Fasten your seat belt, friend, because this the most high-powered approach we have. (*Speaking of evangelism ideas*) I do not know of anything that works better than giving Friday nights to Jesus. Giving Friday nights to Jesus will reach more people in less time than any other method around. In fact, if you give Friday night to Jesus and your class does not double in two years or less, it probably can’t be done.

The truly remarkable part is that giving Friday nights to Jesus is more fun than Six Flags. You wouldn’t think a ministry could be so effective and so much fun at the same time. But isn’t just like God to make something enjoyable and effective? Sometimes God makes it easy for us to “rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4)

We didn’t dream this ministry up—God sovereignly led us to it through the circumstances of our lives. And if I had not seen it in action, I may have never been convinced of its effectiveness. Here’s how it works.

We used to have our friends over on Friday nights to play cards. We would play games, tell jokes, and enjoy dessert together. One day I suggested to my wife, Sharon, that we invite a couple who had visited the church to join us the next Friday. We did, and we had a good time in the process. During the entire evening, we never said a word about church, Sunday School, the Bible, or anything else remotely religious. Do you know what? They joined the church in a few weeks, and now he’s teaching a class. And both would tell you they were not living the disciple’s life before they played cards and ate dessert with us that night.

A few weeks later, we invited another couple over. We played cards, we laughed; we ate dessert; we had a good time. Guess what? After a few weeks, they joined the church and became very active in the group. They, too, would tell you they were not living the disciple’s life before we played cards with them.

After six months of this, I did a little research. I discovered that forty-five couples who would have been prospects for our class had visited the church during that time. We were able to have ten of these couples to our house to play cards. Nine out of the ten joined the church and became involved in the class. Out of the remaining thirty-five, only three had joined. I don’t know of any method more effective in assimilating visitors than this hospitality ministry.

That is why I say, if you want to double your class every two years or less, give Friday nights to Jesus. Play cards. Tell jokes. Enjoy dessert. Laugh. Have a good time. But most of all, include an outsider couple. Ministry has never been so much fun.

George Barna’s research indicated that 7 percent of the people who do not attend church plan to do so within the next year. If churches consistently gave Friday nights to Jesus, we could see 90 percent of those people stay. That is, at least 6 percent of the unchurched would come into the church each year. Another 33 percent of the unchurched are open to attending church, according to Barna. The most likely thing to attract them is the invitation of a friend.

Josh goes on to say that it does not have to be Friday night, and you do not have to play cards. You can take people out to lunch, go bowling, or play golf. You might go out to lunch with your friends. But include some outsiders in your life, whether they’re newcomers to the faith or believers who are new to town.

Josh shares plenty of other practical outreach/evangelism ideas in [You Can Double Your Class in Two Years or Less](#). You can purchase this book on Josh’s website at www.joshhunt.com.

Taken from Josh Hunt's book, You Can Double Your Class in Two Years or Less. Josh can be reached at www.joshhunt.com.