

Youth Culture Lesson
Finding Teachable Moments in Culture
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Engraced Invitation

The Unchurched Would go to Church – If a Friend Asked Them to Go

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What Happened:

Though America is overwhelmingly Christian, less than half of Americans find their way to church on any given weekend. Chuck Neighbors wants to do something about those stats.

Neighbors, a Christian dramatist, is producing a series of videos called “There Goes Bob,” focusing on the odd little dance Christians and their unchurched friends go through when one invites the other to church.

In the first – which can be found on YouTube or at <http://MastersImage.com> – a coffee-drinking neighbor wonders why Bob, his golfing buddy, never invites him to church. “He goes every week,” the neighbor says. “Religiously.” Subsequent episodes chronicle Bob’s first hesitant steps in reintroducing his neighbor to church, and his neighbor’s uneasiness about going. “Hope the roof doesn’t cave in,” he says.

According to the book *The Unchurched Next Door*, about 82 percent of non-church-goers would attend a service if a friend asked; but only 2 percent of church-goers have invited friends to come.

“I pastor a congregation of Bobs,” says the Rev. Jon Kam of a church in Montrose, California. “I can’t help but think the ongoing saga of Bob and his neighbor just may help liberate our congregation from the notion that church is for us, not them.”

Talk About It:

What do you like about church? Youth group? What makes this aspect of life fun? What makes it meaningful? Do you think some of your friends might like going?

The “There Goes Bob” series is meant for adults, but the lessons are applicable to teens, too. Do you know friends who don’t go to church or youth group? Have you ever asked them to come? What happened?

Do you ever feel weird asking someone to come to church with you? Why? Are you worried he or she might say no? Are you scared you’d be too pushy?

What the Bible Says:

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation’” (Mark 16:15).

“After this the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them on ahead of Him, two by two, into every town and place where He Himself was about to go. And He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into this harvest’” (Luke 10:1-2).

“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” (Rom. 10:14).