

Invited: Parent CUE

1. We're Teaching This

Everyone likes to feel included. Finding out you didn't get invited to the party with all your friends hurts. Invitations are powerful. Invitations can initiate new relationships, change the tone of a friendship and alter how someone sees himself or herself. When Jesus walked the earth, he offered a very simple invitation that changed the world: "Follow me." Invited is a 3-week series seeking to communicate the truth that Jesus is inviting students into relationship with Him and to encourage students to extend the invitation to their friends and family.

2. Think About This

A sense of belonging can be incredibly powerful in a student's life. It's why Jesus' invitation to follow him resonates so deeply – it is an invitation to belonging. We all want to create a home where our students feel they fit in; where they belong. In her blog post *You Fit*, Sarah Anderson writes about why it can make such a difference for a child to know they belong at home.

God's message has more traction in the lives of our kids if they observe it in the first place they have the chance to—among people who may not be the same, who may not get it right all the time, who are stumbling their way through much of life themselves, but who never waver on essentials. If in their home, in their family, in their tribes they know they belong, the world may be a bit less harsh, and God may feel a bit more present.

In other words, **if they grow up learning they are loved, they are ours, and they fit, I believe they will hear more easily of a God who tells all of us—regardless of age, experience or perception—that same message.** We were created for it.

Take a moment to read the entire article below from Orange Parents for some encouragement on creating a home environment where your child fits.

<http://orangeparents.org/you-fit/>

3. Try This

As parents, you have the opportunity to empower invitation within your students. Your confidence in them goes a long way in their confidence in themselves. Here are just a couple of ideas of how you can empower your student to be an inviter and give the gift of belonging to someone else:

- Ask them whom they can invite to MSM or HSM (or their birthday party, or with that extra ticket to the game, or anything else really). Getting your student thinking like an inviter will help them take the opportunities when they come.
- Give a ride! Let your student know that if he or she invites a friend to MSM or HSM, that you would be happy to pick them up and drive them!

Get connected to a wider community of parents at www.orangeparents.org.