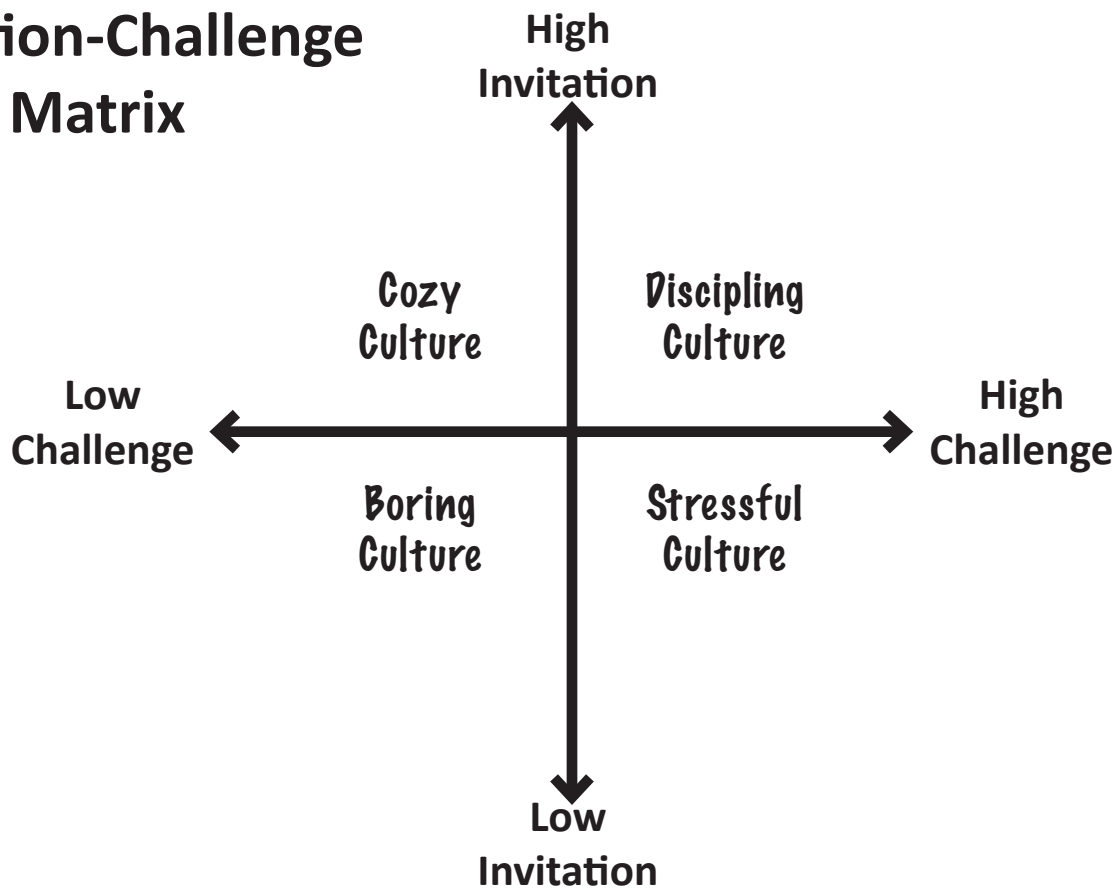


Invitation-Challenge Matrix



Key Scripture: Mark 3:14-15

Supporting Scripture: Matthew 16:17-18, 23-25, Matthew 19

Shape Teaching:

1. Read the Mark passage. As you read, notice that Jesus invited twelve men to “be with Him,” to share life with Him, and to have full relational access to Him. Also notice that in this same passage He sent them to preach and to drive out demons. Here we see the calibration of both invitation and challenge, being and doing, relationship and action.
2. This is also seen in the story of the Rich Young ruler in Matthew 19:16-23, Jesus invited him into relationship but He also challenged him.
3. Draw the matrix and begin to label the quadrants. As we look at the discipling culture that we are a part of, we can use this matrix to help us assess our own balance of invitation and challenge.
4. When we seek to create a comfortable environment for growing in our relationship with God, and if we avoid calling each other to responsibility, action and growth, we become a **cozy** culture. These are consumers, not a lot of change.
5. When there is absence of both invitation and challenge, the result is a **boring** culture.
6. On the other hand, when we focus primarily on actions, behaviors, rules, and what needs to be done next, we end up fostering a **stressful** and legalistic culture.
7. Jesus was able to create a **discipling** culture in which there was an appropriate mix of invitation and challenge. He asks us to do the same as we follow Him together.
8. This is a tool you can use to map yourself and see where you are at. It is interesting to note that most people we are discipling are going to map themselves in the cozy culture. You will find that in trying to move to the discipling culture, they often have to go through the stressful quadrant.
9. This matrix can help us look at our own relationship with Jesus as He disciplines us. It can help us evaluate the relationships that we have with others as we disciple each other, as well as the culture that we are creating in our churches and Christian community as we follow Jesus together.
10. In Matthew 16:17-18, we can see this same calibration of invitation and challenge in Peter and Jesus. Jesus affirms Peter, invites him to draw closer, and gives him a special name. But, just moments later, Jesus seriously challenges Peter for his ungodly thoughts and words.