

Sent Out by Jesus

Study 1 The Harvest is Plentiful

1. We sometimes use the phrase having 'a heart for mission'. Who are the people or ministries that you are passionate about?

Matt 9:35-38

2. How would you define or explain what mission is?
3. What did Jesus' mission look like? What principles can we apply to our own mission? v35
4. What drives Jesus' mission? V36 How can we develop a heart for mission?
5. The terms 'harassed and helpless' literally mean torn and thrown down. In what ways might this apply to people around us? In what way are they in need of a Shepherd? See also Zech 10: 2-3.
6. If we have a heart for mission and see a need what does Jesus offer as the first step to take? V37-38
7. How can we pray for people without Jesus in their lives, those closest to us and in the wider world? What challenges do you face praying for others to come to Christ?
8. In what ways have you seen God acting in response to prayer for workers? Have you ever been the answer?

Pray together

- Pray that God would strengthen the passion of our church and members in your group for mission.
- Pray for people that God has given you a heart for, praying that God would send Christians into their lives to live and speak the good news of Jesus.

Study 2 People of Peace

1. Describe a time when you were left to do something on your own for the first time after the training was completed or you had watched someone else do it, e.g. a new job, driving on your own after getting a license, parenting your first child. What did it feel like to be on your own with new responsibility?

Matt10:1-15

2. In the passage today Jesus sends the disciples out on mission on their own after following and watching him. In what ways is their mission to be like that of Jesus? (9:35, 10: 1, 7)
3. Of Jesus' instructions which applied to the specific context of the disciples and which can we take as applying to us today? (Hint: think of which instructions the early church did and did not continue in mission described in Acts).
4. The disciples were sent to the Jews only and yet elsewhere Jesus includes the non-Jews (Gentiles) in his Kingdom (Matt 8:11-12). What is the priority for mission Jesus gives? (See Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
5. Why were the disciples instructed not to take payment for their ministry? V8b (See also
6. The disciples on this occasion were given instructions to travel without excess provisions or bag (used for begging), yet Jesus tells them a worker is worth his keep. V9-10. What principle do we find in New Testament to guide us on paying for gospel workers today? (See I Tim 5:17-18; I Cor 9:9-18)
7. The disciples were to follow Jewish customs of hospitality. The term 'worthy' refers to someone willing to open their home to the disciples. The instruction to shake the dust off their feet after leaving a town that is not welcoming suggests that rejecting the message of Jesus is a serious sin (Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed). What principle can we take from these instructions for our own outreach today?
8. The disciples were to extend their peace wherever they were welcomed. V13. In what way does the gospel message bring peace? (See also Rom 5:1; Col 1:20 and Rom 12:18)

Pray together

- Pray for our link missionaries as they apply the principles of mission found in the Bible to the cultural context they are working in.
- Pray for each other as people of peace in your workplace, family, neighbourhood etc.

Study 3 Wisdom in Challenge

1. The Bible uses the imagery of animals to teach us. What life lessons have you learnt from your experience with animals?

Matthew 10:16-31

2. Jesus uses the imagery of animals throughout this passage. What is the main point Jesus wants us to learn from the image of sheep among wolves (v16)?
3. What was the context in which the apostles were likely to experience opposition? (v17, 18, 21) What are the contexts in which Christians are likely to experience opposition today?
4. What attitudes to Christians have you experienced in Diamond Creek? What are the attitudes to Christians and the church in the media or overseas?
5. What is your natural response to opposition as a Christian?
6. Jesus uses the imagery of snakes and doves. V 16. What are the lessons we can learn from this imagery to help us do mission and respond to opposition in our local context?
7. Many of us worry about what to say to non-Christians, especially in a situation of opposition. What does Jesus promise (v19-20)? What can we do when we are worried about what to say?
8. Jesus urges the apostles not to be afraid. What are the promises he gave them? What assurance does this give us in our context of mission today? V26-31

Pray together

- Pray for each other in the contexts you interact with non-Christians. Pray also for those you interact with that God would work in their lives.
- Pray for Christian leaders and missionaries in sensitive situations that are exposed to opposition.

Study 4 The Cost & Privilege of Mission

1. Describe some situations where you have accepted immediate costs for later reward?

Matthew 10:32-42

2. Jesus claims that receiving him or acknowledging our allegiance to him is the same as receiving God. V32-33, 40. On what basis can Jesus make this claim?
3. How can we reconcile Jesus statement that he did not come to bring peace with his previous claims e.g. Matt 5:9? What does Matt 10:34 suggest about the purpose of Jesus mission and the response to his mission?
4. When we participate in Jesus' mission as his representative we may experience the same rejection Jesus experienced, even from within our own families. V35-36. What opposition from family have you or others experienced?
5. Jesus demands that he be made the top priority in our relationships and lives. V37-39. How does his demand contrast with the message we hear today in media, social media, and from people around us.
6. Give some examples of how Jesus' as priority might play out in our lives. Give some examples of how v37-39 might be abused.
7. Jesus talks of the reward for those who receive him by receiving the message his representatives bring. V40-42). What is the reward for those who do not deny Jesus?

Pray together

Take time to allow the Holy Spirit to examine your priorities in relationships and life. Support each other through prayer to always place Jesus as the priority in our lives. Pray for faithfulness and courage to never deny Jesus before others.

Pray for Christians in countries such as Afghanistan, Nigeria where Christians face persecution and conflict because they have chosen to receive Jesus. Pray they will not give in to the pressure to deny Jesus.