

Connect Group Study following the talk on Sunday 16th January 2022

Read Luke 10:1-4

Opener

What do you think of when you think about evangelism?
(“evangelism” means spreading the gospel)

Bible comprehension

Spend a moment making sure people have a chance to digest the passage. Why not break the four verses down into these five sections below. (Don't spend too long here)

1. Luke's description:

'After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go'

What does the word 'appoint' suggest to you?

2. Jesus' statement:

'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few'

Why do you think Jesus uses the concept of a 'harvest'?
(Jesus is speaking into a farming culture)

3. Jesus' first command :

'Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field'

What is Jesus encouraging his disciples to do here? (The answer is to engage in prayer!)

4. Jesus' second command:

'Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.'

What does this image suggest to you about the way Jesus sent out his followers?
(example answers: in weakness not strength; into a hostile world; in total dependence on him.)

5. Jesus' third command

'Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road'

Why is Jesus' mission so urgent? Why does he tell the 72 not to be delayed?
(answer from the passage is that the harvest is plentiful! It's harvest time)

Read this

“Tim's main point on Sunday was that God is still looking to send people out on this kind of mission. God wants to use us as 'harvest workers', sharing the gospel (the good news) of God's love for us which was shown in Jesus, and leading people to become Christians.”

With this in mind, please do ask the following questions.

Open question 1:

"Since God wants to send us, what's the most puzzling thing about this passage?
(stay as a whole group. Try to encourage people to focus on the passage)

Open question 2:

"Since God wants to send us, what's the most challenging about this passage for the way we live our lives?"

(Get your group to split into smaller groups of 3 or 4, to discuss for a few minutes and then to feedback to the larger group)

Open question 3:

"Since God wants to send us, what's the most encouraging thing about this passage?"

(e.g. God invites us to work with him and pray for his Kingdom to come)

Ideas for your prayer time:

Pray for people you know by name to become Christians.

Pray for God to open doors for us to witness and talk about him.

Pray for people's 'harvest fields', as in pray for peoples workplaces and families etc.

Pray for God to fill us with the Holy Spirit.