

Group discussion *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”*

Read Luke 10:1-12 aloud. NOTE: In this week’s lesson the guiding question is: what does this passage teach us about what it means to be on mission with God? Keep this in mind as you discuss.

1. The first thing we learn about being on mission with God is that we do not go at this alone. Jesus sends out his disciples two by two (1). Why do you think Jesus sends his disciples out in pairs?

Tell of a time when you shared in ministry with someone. What difference did that experience make for you? What are the advantages? What are the challenges?

Do you have a specific ministry (or place you are currently ministering) where you might need the help of another person? What is it and how can this group help?

2. A second thing we learn is that “the harvest is plentiful” (2). Why do you think Jesus told his disciples this first thing?

Do you think the same holds true today? Is the harvest plentiful in Wilson County? Why or why not?

What are some of the “reasons” you have heard from people about why they choose not to go out into the harvest?

How would you respond to these reasons if you were in a conversation with them?

3. A third thing we learn is that the mission is risky and urgent (3-4). What does Jesus say that indicates there will be risk and urgency to this mission?

Do you think these things still apply today? Why or why not?

Give an example of the risk we face being Christians in our world.

Give an example of how we can stay strong in this environment.

4. A fourth thing we learn is that peace is to be central to our mission (5-6). Do you think “peace” is the defining characteristic of Christians in our world? Why or why not? *See Bible notes*

What might Christians do in order to help cultivate a spirit of peace in the work they do as they live in the world?

Who is a person that stands out as an example of peace that we might learn from? What do they do or say that defines them with the peace of God?

What would it look like to be give peace to the neighbors we interact with on a daily basis? How do we take the peace of God next door?

5. A fifth thing we learn is stability (7-8) . How is stability (or staying in one place for a while) an effective way to spread the mission of God? What does this communicate to the people in that location?

Why is this an especially hard command for Christians to obey in our world today? What challenges do we face that makes this extra difficult?

Share a place in your life where you are struggling to stay or leave. What can this group do to help you make your decision?

† **The million-dollar question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

Of the 5 things we learned about being on mission with God which of them most connects with you life now? In other words, which of these statements below best describes where you are with God’s mission right now. Explain why that one best describes you now.

- I need help from others in sharing God’s message.
- I need to better see the harvest around me.
- I need to take a risk for God’s mission.
- I need to cultivate more peace in my life to show God better.
- I need to stay in a location/situation I am considering leaving for the sake of God’s mission.

Resources

Bible notes

Some translations note that Jesus sent out 72 disciples in verse 1. However, most say 70. This number is thought to echo back to either the number of nations listed following the flood (Gen 10), or possibly to the number of elders chosen by Moses from the tribes of Israel (Exodus 24:1-9).

The “peace” that Jesus speaks of is more than a light-hearted feeling (5-6). For Christians peace is more of a robust kind of thing. Peace has connotations of wholeness, healing, and salvation. Notable is the mention of peace in relation to the arrival of Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:14). This idea is central to the message of Jesus.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

The “Packing Up” Activity

Get an empty suitcase and get a lot of items that you might take on a trip (shirts, hair dryer, etc.).

Ask the kids what kinds of things you do to get ready for a big trip. Pull out the suitcase and ask them what kinds of things they would put in there (either let them help you pack the suit case or maybe they could even go through the house and find an item to put in).

Ask: Why should we pack things up before we go on a big trip?

Tell how Jesus was getting his disciples ready for a bit trip, too. They were supposed to go into surrounding towns and tell about God’s good news of the kingdom. Read Luke 10:1-12

Ask: What kind of preparation does Jesus give to the disciples? What surprises you about what Jesus says to his disciples here? What do you think he was trying to teach his disciples here?

One of the big lessons he wanted to teach them is depending on God. How can we learn better dependence on God? What kinds of things do we learn here in this passage about how to do that?

Pray: God, as we go into the world help us to trust you more. Amen.



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LIFE Group Guide

Luke 10:1-12 – Faith Next Door (Part 3):

2x2

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The theme: **The mission of Jesus always carries an outward direction. We are sent, as his workers, into the harvest in order to proclaim peace and the kingdom of God. Even though we may face challenges in this work we do not go out alone. Instead, Jesus sends us out with other people as we minister in his name. We take our faith next door together, not alone.**

This week Kevin continued his “Faith Next Door” series by focusing on a key passage in Luke that describes Jesus sending out of his disciples. One important point that Kevin made in his lesson was the joy that Jesus received as a result of seeing his disciples carry out his work. What a great thought for us: that Jesus is filled with joy when he sees us carrying out his work in the world.

Leaders Note: Thanks to all of you leaders who made it a priority to attend our leadership meetings over Fall Break. John and I were really encouraged by what we heard from you concerning your ideas for 2012. This meeting was another reminder of the great work you are doing as leaders here at College Hills. Thanks for the work you do!

Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone’s spiritual pulse, and “break the ice.” No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ If you could pick one of the following which would you pick: hayride in a forest or walk on the beach? Why?
- ❖ What is your favorite hot drink on a cold day?
- ❖ Name one great thing that happened to you this past week.