

Small Group Guide SENT OUT

The Church at Brook Hills,

Jonathan B.

October 25, 2009

Luke 10:1-24

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Invite any learners in your group to describe ways that their life has gone in a different direction than they thought that it would. Ask the following questions:

- **How has God directed these changes?**
- **How does knowing that God directed your life this way affect your attitude about your life?**

Explain that today we will look at how Jesus commissioned His followers to be a part of a mission directed solely by God.

Option 2

Encourage learners to share a time when they were completely dependent upon another person. Ask the following questions:

How did this dependence make you feel?

Did you feel you could trust this person?

How did this dependence change your relationship?

Explain that today we will look at how God sends us on His mission in a way that we have to be dependent upon Him.

Review the Message . . .

DISCIPLES SENT ON A GOD-DIRECTED MISSION

- Jesus directs his disciples to count the cost.
- Jesus directs his disciples to go in community.
- Jesus directs his disciples to prepare for His coming.
- Jesus directs his disciples to respond to urgent needs.
- Jesus directs his disciples to pray for more laborers.

Discussion

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- Enlist a learner to read Luke 10:1-2. Who was the sending agent for these men?
- Read Luke 9:57-62. What did Jesus want his disciples to consider when following Him? Why did He ask that of them?
- How did the consideration of whom they were following result in their being willing to follow Him?
- How did Jesus' sending the men out in pairs emphasize the sense of inter-dependence Christians have toward one another?
- Looking at Verse 1, where did Jesus send these men? How does their presence in the cities where He was to visit indicate how His disciples are to work in accordance with His overarching plan?
- Verse 2 gives an indication of why He sent the men out. What were Jesus' commands to His followers?

Application . . .

- What costs do most of us have to consider when we follow Christ?
- What costs will we have to consider if we are to participate in international missions? Long-term missions? Next-door missions? Inner-city missions? Family missions?
- How can we often proclaim the importance of community between believers, but in reality practice independence?
- Why don't we view the spiritual (and physical) needs of others as urgent as Jesus did? How has our comfort level here de-sensitized us to others around the world?
- How can we make ourselves more available to God for Him to use us to share His gospel in the location where we are at?
- What is the most "scary" thing to us about praying that God would send out laborers to proclaim the gospel locally and globally? How can we overcome that fear?

DISCIPLES GO AS GOD-DEPENDENT MESSENGERS

- Go defenseless and depend on God's protection.
- Go vulnerable and depend on God's provision.
- Go sensitive and depend on God's discernment.
- Go expecting and depend on God's power.
- Go proclaiming and depend on God's purpose.

Discussion

- Enlist a learner to read Luke 10:3-16.
- How did Jesus' commission prepare the men for their necessary dependence upon God?
- In what ways would His followers have to depend on God, according to this passage?

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- How would the “man of peace” in Verse 6 give an indication of God’s work in that home/community?
- Describe the way that Jesus told the men to handle rejection? Where was their freedom both in acceptance and rejection of the gospel?

Application . . .

- We often don’t seem to have to depend on God for a lot. How can our lives here sometimes rob us of the joy of depending on God?
- How can obedience to Christ’s mission help us to depend more, know Christ deeper, and see the blessings of dependence upon God?
- What areas in our lives should we give our control over to God’s control?
- What does our attitude toward finding “men of peace” indicate about our own self-reliance and/or preconceived ideas about other cultures?
- From whom are we most afraid of receiving rejection? Why?
- Why is it easy to take rejection personally? How can we avoid that trap? How does today’s study help us overcome the fear of rejection?

DISCIPLES PARTICIPATE IN A GOD-GLORIFYING VICTORY

- The disciples’ joy comes from serving in Jesus’ Name.
- The disciples’ power over the enemy comes from Jesus’ authority.
- The disciples’ rejoicing comes from eternal life through Jesus.
- The disciples’ weakness causes Jesus to rejoice in God’s Grace.
- The disciples are blessed to participate in God’s ultimate victory.

Discussion

- Enlist a learner to read Luke 10:17-24.
- Why were the disciples joyful when they returned?
- Looking at verses 18-19, how did the disciples receive the authority to perform the acts that they did?
- How did God receive the glory when men performed these actions?
- According to Jesus, what is greater joy than having authority over demons? Why would this knowledge be greater?
- In verse 21, Jesus calls His followers “infants.” How does the context of His prayer give glory to God and further emphasize His followers’ dependence on God?
- Why does Jesus call His followers “blessed?”

Application . . .

- Ask your learners to share if they’ve ever experienced the joy of being a part of God’s victorious mission. How did it make them feel?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to remove any glory from ourselves when God performs great acts through us?

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- What can we do today, and this year, to align ourselves with God's mission?
- What does our response to His command for us to "go" look like in our lives today? Next year? In the next five years?
- What are we willing to sacrifice/change/risk in order to be obedient to Him?