**Live in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**Get Going**

[Jesus] said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” ([John 20:21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn20.21))

*The gift of the Holy Spirit was sent so that we might have power—power to go and make disciples. Some go to the farthest corners of the globe. Some only cross the street in front of their house. Still, God’s people always go. They go to work, school, grocery stores, kids’ soccer games, and family reunions. And wherever they go, they take their witness of Jesus with them. True believers live going and carrying out His mission.*

**Session Overview**

**Go Forth**

**Biblical Encounter:** The Disciples Choose to Go ([Luke 10:1–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.1-20))

**Outcome:** Move in faith and community into Jesus’ mission.

*In this session, we’ll look at Jesus’ call to serve in His mission. Following His call was first the privilege of Jesus’ closest followers, His twelve disciples (*[*Luke 9:1–6*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk9.1-6)*.) Then Jesus sent out a larger group of seventy-two followers. Their willingness to go and minister to people, not knowing how they would be received, is a model for us as we follow Jesus today. We have the gospel to share. And even though we aren’t in charge of the results, we are responsible to share it with a waiting world.*

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| *First time leading* Live *for Adults? Check out the* [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

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| **QUESTION**If you were assigning a group project at home or at school, what guidelines would you give to the team members? |

We’ve probably all been a part of a group project at some point. Think about how well or how poorly your group worked together. Would others say you took more of an active part in the group or mostly sat and watched the others work?

Jesus doesn’t want anyone to sit on the sidelines when it comes to serving Him. In the passage we’ll look at today, Jesus told His disciples to pray that God would raise up workers for the harvest. Then He immediately commissioned them to be the answer to that very prayer. But He didn’t send them out to serve alone. He gave clear guidelines about how they should minister together.

Jesus didn’t leave them with any illusions. Despite the message of hope for the world, not everyone the disciples met would be happy when Jesus’ followers came to town. Still His followers stepped out in faith to share His love with a world that was desperately in need. This was and is the mission of every follower of Jesus.

**Watch**

As we watch this video, think about your answer to these questions: Who is someone you have partnered with to serve others? How was it beneficial to serve together?



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**Consider What the Bible Says**

Until now, most of Jesus’ followers had spent their time watching and learning as He ministered to people. Now the time had come for a large group of them to go out in pairs and do what they’d seen Jesus doing. He had already sent out the twelve disciples to minister in villages, telling them to stay where they were invited. (*See* [Luke 9:1–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk9.1-6).) Now Jesus was preparing to send out this larger group of His followers.

**Did You Know?**

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| Places for travelers to stay were quite common in Jesus’ time because all Jewish men were supposed to make a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem three times a year. The most common form of lodging was a *kataluma*, an additional room built onto an individual’s house. Inns or hotels known as a *pandechion* were also established businesses in the first century. This lodging was referenced by Jesus in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:34). Inscriptions have also revealed that even synagogues served as guesthouses when needed. |

**Go Forth Together**

Read [Luke 10:1–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.1-4).

Following Jesus has never been a spectator sport. We sometimes experience seasons for stepping back to grow and learn. But those seasons are followed by seasons of going out into a hurting world to share the love and hope only Jesus can give. We won’t know how we’ll be received by the world. What we do know is that we are called to go. And thankfully Jesus doesn’t expect us to serve alone.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever gone out with others to share Jesus? If so, what was that like? |

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| **QUESTION**How do you think the people Jesus chose for this mission felt when He sent them out to minister likely for the first time without Him? |

**Go with Peace**

Read [Luke 10:5–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.5-7).

Jesus commanded His disciples to speak peace over the households where they stayed as they traveled. Their job was to obey and offer the message of hope. How people received them was out of their control. Jesus didn’t call His followers to persuade everyone to agree with them. They were sent to offer peace, blessings, and hope to be a part of God’s kingdom. The rest was up to the choice of those who heard the message. We can become confused about our job of proclaiming, thinking we have to coax or beg others to accept the gospel of salvation.

We can’t control how others receive our message, yet we still must share it. Also, our proclamation doesn’t control when or how the Holy Spirit convicts. Jesus knew we would struggle with this, and He made it clear to His followers that not everyone would receive Him or the message we proclaim about Him.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think the disciples were willing to go minister to people without even knowing how it would turn out? |

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| **QUESTION**How do you think this step of going out in faith changed or impacted the disciples’ relationship with Jesus? |

**Go with Healing**

Read [Luke 10:8–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.8-15).

Wherever the mission of Jesus is being accomplished, the supernatural often follows. Jesus seemed to tell His followers to heal the sick as normally as if He were asking them to take out the trash. Then Jesus reemphasized the point He had already made: Not everyone would receive the message of hope His disciples were offering. That also meant not everyone who needed healing would be healed.

Our mission is to go and share regardless of people’s response. We can’t be defined by how others respond to the gospel message. If they refuse it, we didn’t fail. They just didn’t receive it. Our role is to follow the commands of Jesus while operating in the spirit of Jesus. Like these first followers, we are to offer peace, pray for the sick, and love the lost. God is in charge of the outcome.

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| **QUESTION**How can we be workers for Jesus without letting ourselves become defined by the results of our efforts? |

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| **QUESTION**If you had to “wipe even the dust” from your feet as you go, how well do you think you would have handled the rejection? |

**Go with Confidence**

Read [Luke 10:16–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.16-20).

Not knowing the results of our efforts should *never* deter us from going to all the world with the gospel. Jesus replied to these excited disciples in [Luke 10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10) with a boost of confidence, reminding them that He had already seen Satan fall from heaven in defeat. Ultimately, the battle is already won. We can walk in boldness knowing God’s Spirit is with us and Jesus has already defeated both Satan and sin. So, even if we first do not seem to succeed, we can never underestimate the spiritual victory happening all around us.

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| **QUESTION**How do you think seeing people healed and delivered through their own ministry impacted the disciples? |

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| **QUESTION**What are the benefits of having a ministry partner to share these experiences with? |

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| **QUESTION**Who are some people in your life who need the peace and healing Jesus is calling us to offer? |

**Reflect**

**Move in faith and community into Jesus’ mission.**

Maybe you’ve partnered in ministry with others or shared the gospel with neighbors, family members, or friends. But some didn’t accept the hope and peace that Jesus offers. It can be a difficult tension to manage in our relationship with Jesus and our desire to keep serving with others. We can begin to wonder why things aren’t going better if we’re obeying Jesus’ call to go. After all, Jesus said the harvest was ready to be reaped, didn’t He?

The harvest is ready, and people will respond to the gospel. But ultimately, we can’t force anyone to receive the hope we’ve found in Jesus. That’s not our calling. The question is, will we continue to go and share the love of Jesus even if we’re rejected and hated by others?

Jesus didn’t offer His followers an easy path. He offered them the right path and the opportunity to minister together. He’s doing the same for us today. He’s calling us to follow Him on a journey out into a hurting world to people who won’t always be glad we came. Our job, like the original disciples’ job, is to go anyway and faithfully share Jesus with those around us.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we have read and shared. Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following questions. Respond to the one that most resonates with what God is saying to you now. Then complete the others during Day 1 of your devotion time this week.

**Personal Reflection Questions**

*Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.*

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| **Question**Who is the Holy Spirit calling you to go to and share the gospel with? |

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| **QUESTION**What can you learn from Jesus’ desire for you to partner with others as you serve Him? |

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| **QUESTION**How should the truth that Jesus has ultimately defeated Satan impact your willingness to go out into the world? |

**Activate**

Jesus makes it clear in the Gospels that it’s time to go out to the world. A harvest is waiting, and Jesus has called us to be the workers. He didn’t leave any room for confusion. Our job is to go into all the world and share His gospel ([Matthew 28:20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt28.20)).

This week ask someone to partner with you in ministry. Together choose someone in your neighborhood or community who needs the hope Jesus offers. Think of a way to show Jesus’ love to them. Our God is creative, and we can be too! What can you do that will not only allow them to hear about Jesus, but will also help them to experience His love through your kindness or compassion? Could you take them some food, or offer to help them with a project around their home? Don’t underestimate the small acts of love we can bring to someone else’s life.

**Prayer Requests**

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| Note any requests from the group and pray together. Also remember to pray for them during the week. |

Jesus is calling us to go. That will require some fuel for the trip. So, we’ve added some personal devotions to help you further think and pray through what we’ve learned today.

**Live on Your Own**

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| *Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.* |

**Day 1: The Disciples Choose to Go**

Read [Luke 10:1–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.1-20).

Look back over Live in Community and complete your responses to the Personal Reflection Questions. Plan how to complete the Activate component if you haven’t already done so. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

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| **QUESTION**What is Jesus saying to you about living out His mission through serving with others? |

**Live on Your Own**

**Day 2: The Spirit’s Voice**

Read [Acts 8:26–40](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac8.26-40).

Jesus has clearly called us to go forth. But sometimes we can feel like we don’t know exactly who we’re supposed to go to first. This story helps us see that we don’t need to look any further than the person right in front of us. We don’t always have to go across an ocean to find someone in need of Jesus. We can just go across the street. The key is first doing what Philip did: Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit to go and minister to someone. Then follow His leading.

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| **QUESTION**Why do we often miss the opportunities right in front of us to minister to people? |

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| **QUESTION**How can you better tune in to the voice of the Holy Spirit, so you can clearly hear Him leading you to those who are in need? |

**Live on Your Own**

**Day 3: Trusting through Trouble**

Read [John 16:28–33](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn16.28-33).

Jesus doesn’t promise us a life free from trouble. In fact, He guarantees the exact opposite. We can wish it were the reverse, but trusting Jesus means we choose to believe His ways are higher than ours ([Isaiah 55:8–9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is55.8-9)). We will sometimes experience trouble as we share the love of Jesus with a broken world. But as we saw in [Luke 10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10), Jesus has already seen Satan fall in defeat. That’s a truth we can stand on as we boldly proclaim the message of Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**What is your initial reaction to hearing Jesus promise us that we will have trouble in our life? |

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| **QUESTION**How does the truth of Jesus’ ultimate victory impact you in the face of these troubles? |

**Live on Your Own**

**Day 4: We’re Not Alone**

Read [Matthew 28:16–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt28.16-20).

As we go out into the world to tell about Jesus, we have a promise that is powerful enough to see us through. As we know, it’s not a guarantee of a life free from trouble. It’s a promise that Jesus will be with us. Think about that for a moment. He has guaranteed we will not be alone. As we are all called to the Great Commission in these verses, we can depend on each other as we all depend on Him. Jesus’ presence is with all those who share in His mission through the Holy Spirit. We can all find rest in the fact that the One who is with us is the One who is in charge of the world (verse [18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt28.18)).

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| **QUESTION**Have you felt alone at times as a follower of Jesus? How does this promise make you feel? |

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| **QUESTION**What are some practical ways you can work with other believers to fulfill the Great Commission? |

**Live on Your Own**

**Day 5: Worth the Cost**

Read [John 15:18–25](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn15.18-25).

To embrace the mission of Jesus is to embrace the life of Jesus*.* He was hated. He suffered. But He knew it was worth the cost. He did it all so we could experience His love. Now as His followers, we must step out in faith together to do what He did—the way He did it. Like Jesus, we will all pay a cost too. People will hate us because of the gospel, but Jesus reminds us that this makes us like Him because the world hated Him first. The cost may be great, but the reward is even greater.

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| **QUESTION**How does it make you feel to know that Jesus told us we will be hated and persecuted as He was? |

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| **QUESTION**How might sharing in Jesus’ suffering draw you even closer to Him? |