**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 Holy Spirit was given 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 how Jesus sent a group of disciples out on their own, ready to do ministry. What they had learned from Jesus, they would now use. Jesus gave them clear instructions on what to take and what to do as they encountered people. God’s call on our life means that we will be sent to minister to others, too. What we’ll see, however, is how this calling often involves teamwork. This sending of a large group of disciples was in pairs. They made up a team moving in faith together to minister to others.*

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| ***You Will Need*** *•* ***Group Activity Game Page****, one slip for every student* *• Scissors* *• Pen* *•* ***Countdown Video-60 seconds******Getting Ready*** *• Print enough copies of the* ***Group Activity Game Page*** *so each student can have a slip.* *• Cut apart the slips for the game.* *• For specific local items, write in a different person, place, or thing familiar to the group on a blank slip.* • ***First time leading* Live *for Youth? Look here for 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**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming. Your friendliness here can create a comfort level that encourages student participation later.*

**Introduction**

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| **QUESTION**If you had to live on a deserted island for two years, who is the one person you would take with you? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**What is one item you would take with you? Why? |

Have you thought about what it takes to be a part of Jesus’ mission? It first takes faith on our part to follow Him, but have you ever considered the importance of community? Being around others can make things more enjoyable for sure. Having people with us can also help us be more effective at whatever we’re trying to accomplish. Whether by providing encouragement, assistance, expertise, intellect, or talent, it’s nice not having to go through life alone. Our friends and family can also boost our faith when needed.

It was probably like that for the disciples in today’s Bible reading. The way Jesus sent them out, in pairs, likely says something about the way He wants us to serve in community today.

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Ask God to help each person to fall in love with the Bible and see it as instructions for life. Thank Him for those He has put in our life to help us fulfill all He has for us. Thank God for calling us to be a part of His mission.*

**Group Activity**

**Partner Pair Up**

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| ***You Will Need*** *•* ***Group Activity Game Page****, one slip for every student* *• Scissors* *• Pen* *•* ***Countdown60 Video-60 seconds******Getting Ready*** *• Print enough copies of the* ***Group Activity Game Page*** *so each student can have a slip.* *• Cut apart the slips for the game.* *• For specific local items, write in a different person, place, or thing familiar to the group on a blank slip.* |

How about we start with a game? Since we’ll be talking about a time Jesus told His followers to work together, let’s pair up for the game. Each team of two will get a slip with a person, place, or thing on it. One team member will describe what’s on the slip without saying what it is. You can’t say any part of the word or anything that rhymes with it. You can only describe it. The other team member will try and guess what’s on the slip. Let’s see how many teams can guess the correct answer in less than one minute.

• *Play* ***Countdown60 Video****.*

• *Play the game.*

• *When time is up, congratulate the winners.*

• *Have the partners switch roles and play the game again.*

Great job! You worked together as partners to communicate and guess what your slip said. Today we’re going to dive into the Bible to find out about when Jesus sent out disciples in pairs to carry out His mission. First, let’s check out today’s video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

Just like Gabby spent time getting ready for her missions trip, Jesus spent time preparing His disciples. In today’s Bible verses, it was a large group of His followers that paired up and went out to share the good news. They were about to go and do what Jesus had taught them. They were going to participate in Jesus’ mission. This is a little like how in science class you listen to the teacher talk about something. Then that’s followed by you and a lab partner actually doing an experiment to practice what you were taught. In the same way, Jesus sent out His disciples in groups of two. Let’s take a look and find out why.

**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 *pandochion* 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. |

**Jesus Sent Out Workers**

Jesus sent out seventy-two of His disciples to share the good news about Jesus in other towns. He gave them specific instructions and told them what to expect. But still, it must have taken great faith for them to go and do what Jesus told them to do. As we read these first two verses, note what Jesus told them to do first.

Read [Luke 10:1–2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.1-2).

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| **QUESTION**What was the first thing Jesus told these disciples to do? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Jesus told them to pray for more workers and not just to pray for the harvest (the people who didn’t know Jesus)? |

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| **QUESTION**How do you think the seventy-two disciples felt about this assignment? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Jesus sent them out in pairs? |

Doing ministry together meant the disciples could encourage one another. They could combine their wisdom, gifts, and talents to be more effective as they told others about Jesus. Plus, they could develop or deepen their friendship.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever gone on a mission for God? What was it? |

* *Share a personal example if you have one.*

We’re all called to be a part of Jesus’ mission. That may mean going on a missions trip to another country. But it could also be sharing about Jesus with our neighbor across the street or the person who has a locker next to ours. This may be one reason Jesus told His disciples to pray before they went. We don’t always know who we’ll encounter as we share the message. We can always use God’s help to be ready!

**Jesus Gave Instructions for the Mission**

Read [Luke 10:3–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.3-7).

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| **QUESTION**Do you think the seventy-two disciples were nervous after hearing these instructions? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**Which bit of instruction would have been most difficult for you? Why is that? |

Jesus was continually teaching His followers, and He did the same before sending them out to do ministry. He wanted to help them fulfill His mission even when He wasn’t going to be there with them. In other words, He doesn’t leave us to guess about the work. He provides instructions through His Word and the Holy Spirit. He also provided warnings to His disciples, too.

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| **QUESTION**What do you think Jesus meant by “lambs among wolves”? |

Jesus warned them that not everyone would accept their ministry. He wanted them to understand that some would want to do them harm. This is probably another reason He sent them out in pairs.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Jesus instructed them to not take any money, luggage, or even an extra pair of sandals? |

Jesus seemed to be trying to teach the disciples dependence on God. Trusting that God will meet our needs is a very important part of being on mission with Jesus.

**Jesus’ Rules of Engagement**

Read [Luke 10:8–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.8-16).

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| **QUESTION**In what ways might the disciples have changed their thinking since Jesus was not with them? |

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| **QUESTION**What can we learn from the instructions Jesus gave His disciples? |

Jesus told the disciples how some people would embrace the message, and some would refuse it. Jesus implied that even some entire towns would reject the good news. Some would have hard hearts to the end and then face judgment as a result. Jesus gave a stern warning to the disciples on what to do if that happened.

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| **QUESTION**How do you think the seventy-two felt when they went to a place that rejected them? |

Even though Jesus was sending the disciples out, they still wouldn’t be completely successful. The same is true for us. We must realize that not everyone we tell about Jesus will accept what we say about Him. We won’t always see life change. Sometimes we’ll minister and see no results for a long time or ever.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever felt rejected by someone when you tried to share the truth about Jesus? What happened? |

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| **QUESTION**Why is it important to understand that people are not rejecting you, but rejecting the truth of Jesus? |

Remember, the results are not ours. We’re simply asked to share Jesus and His love with others. The gospel is powerful and life changing, but people must be open to receiving the good news. We cannot force life change on someone.

**Jesus’ Disciples Were Impressed by the Results**

Read [Luke 10:17–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.17-20).

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| **QUESTION**What was the vibe of the disciples when they returned? |

The disciples returned with great reports! They were excited about their ministry trip and how things turned out.

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| **QUESTION**Have you or someone you know come back from a missions trip excited about all God did? What happened on that trip? |

After the disciples returned and shared their success, Jesus reminded them that they were in a spiritual battle. Satan will do all he can to prevent the gospel from being shared. But Jesus gave His disciples authority to minister to people. That includes us, too.

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| **QUESTION**What do you think Jesus meant when He told them that He had given them authority over all the power of the enemy? |

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| **QUESTION**If you really believed you have authority over the enemy, how would that impact the way you live? |

One role we all have in Jesus’ mission is to spread the news about Him. We need faith to do that. Jesus wants us to serve in community with other believers. But there was one more thing that was even more important to Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**Why did Jesus want them to rejoice more over their name being registered in heaven? |

Knowing we are going to heaven is even more important than seeing miracles here on earth. It’s possible to see the miraculous and still not know Jesus in a personal way. That’s why the first and most vital step to being a part of Jesus’ mission is completely committing to following Him.

**Reflect**

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

Jesus’ mission involves great faith and teamwork. We saw how Jesus sent His disciples out without Him, but not alone. God’s call on our life means that we’ll be sent out to minister to others, too. It’s one reason God gave us the Bible. The Bible has instructions and stories of others who were on mission, and we can learn from them.

Not only does Jesus want us to choose to be a part of His mission and to embrace our role, but He wants us to go forward with great faith together with other believers. For example, inviting someone to youth group or helping a friend through a tough time may be better with a friend at your side. There are times when working alongside someone is far better than going it alone. We can be confident that Jesus has empowered us for His work. What we don’t always see is how God encourages us by having a partner in the mission.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in the Bible. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection after reading the questions. Then ask students if they want to share. Sharing your personal response may also be helpful to the students.*

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| **QUESTION**What can we learn from these disciples about how to serve a bigger role in Jesus’ mission? |

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| **QUESTION**What are some steps going forward that you can take to move in faith and partner with others in Jesus’ mission? |

**Activate**

The seventy-two disciples had to trust that God would see that their needs were met. They had to be brave enough to navigate people who wanted to harm them, have faith to believe for miracles, and do all this in community with another believer. Let’s discuss how having someone with us can help us to accomplish Jesus’ mission. Let’s go around the group and briefly share our thoughts about this.

• *Give students time to reflect and then respond to this.*

**Conclusion**

Jesus wants us to move in faith together into His mission. It’s God’s plan for us to join with many others as we serve Him. We need the encouragement, wisdom, accountability, love, and companionship of other believers. Like the disciples, we also must forge ahead knowing that Jesus will take care of our needs. He will provide what we need to keep going. He has also empowered us, giving us authority over all the power of the enemy. Let’s live with faith that God will do great things through our life as we serve Him together.

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*In our Bible story, Jesus indicated that some people would reject the good news about Him. He will not force life change on anyone. We must be open to what He wants to do in our life. Only we can choose to invite Him to be our Savior. But when we do, we can be absolutely confident He will come near to us and be with us. Today is a good day to open your life to Him.**Is anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Prayer**

Jesus, we celebrate that You give authority, the power to do miracles, and the ability to be effective on Your mission. We also thank You for allowing us to serve You in friendship with other believers. We are committed to Your mission and to being in relationship with others who also want to be part of Your mission. Help us experience the joy of community and mission effectiveness just like Your disciples did. Amen.

**Dismissal**

Remember this week to build your faith and friendships. Check out the devotions in the Bible Engagement Project app. Doing these devotions will help you follow Jesus well.