

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Jesus Sends Out 70 Disciples

Luke 10:1-24

### Opening

Gathering: How does God give us His power today to do His work?

Today's Focus: Jesus sends out disciples with His power to do His work and spread His message.

Key Verses: *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.* Luke 10:2

*Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.* Luke 10:20

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Danger in Judea (*John 7*)

Where did Jesus focus His ministry during the first part of His last year?

John 7:1

What caused Him to go to Judea despite the danger?

John 7:2, 10

Was it really dangerous for Jesus to be in Jerusalem?

John 7:11-13, 25-26

Why didn't the Jews who wanted to kill Jesus do so while He was in Jerusalem?

John 7:30, 32, 44; 8:20, 59

Return to the Danger Zone (*John 10:22-42*)

Did Jesus then stay away from Jerusalem until His time came that next Passover?

John 10:22-23

Did Jesus run into danger during this visit?

John 10:31, 39

What reason did they give for wanting to kill Him?

John 10:30-33

Where did Jesus go after this time in Jerusalem?

John 10:40-42

Fitting Chronology With Luke

What point in Luke is recognized to point to Jesus' visit to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles?

Luke 9:51

What point in Luke is recognized to point to Jesus' visit to Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication?

Luke 13:22

The stories in Luke 10-13 (mostly unique to Luke) are believed to have occurred between the two feasts

*Edersheim* - Feast of Tabernacles that year ran September 23-29

Feast of Dedication that year ran December 1-8 (or a week or two later)

These stories therefore were in October, November and maybe December of Jesus' last year

With only two months, it is believed that Jesus either stayed in Judea or went to Perea

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### Prepare the Way (Luke 10:1)

Having spent most of His ministry in Galilee, how did Jesus prepare for His visits to these new areas?

Luke 10:1

Had Jesus taken this "Prepare the Way" approach before?

Luke 9:51-52

How did this approach work then?

Luke 9:53

How did the disciples react to this rejection?

Luke 9:54

Where would the *Sons of Thunder* get an idea like calling down fire from heaven on Samaritans?

2 Kings 1:9-12

What did Jesus think of this idea?

Luke 9:55-56

### Prior Experience (Luke 9:1-6)

Were there any other times when Jesus sent disciples out without Him?

Luke 9:1-2

How had Jesus taught them to trust Him to provide whatever they would need in this effort?

Luke 9:3

Without money or credit cards, how would they find food and lodging?

Luke 9:4

What if they went to a town where no one would take them in?

Luke 9:5

How did things turn out for the Twelve during this prior experience?

Luke 9:6, 10a

### Seventy Others (Luke 10:1)

Did Jesus send out the Twelve again to Judea/Perea in today's story?

Luke 10:1

How might Jews understand the calling and empowering of 70 workers?

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25

Why might some versions of Luke say 72?

Numbers 11:26

What group of 70 did Jesus encounter that took its calling from this group that helped Moses?

Mark 15:1

What other Old Testament reference to 70 also fits why Jesus may have selected seventy?

Genesis 10:1, 32

Jesus did not restrict the 70 from witnessing to Gentiles or Samaritans. Was this on purpose?

Luke 10:7-8

Why might Jesus have sent the 70 two-by-two? Couldn't they make more ground individually?

Deuteronomy 19:15

Should we remember this when bringing the good news to others?

Matthew 18:19-20

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### Important and Urgent but Difficult (*Luke 10:2-4*)

How did Jesus point out to the 70 that the task was important?

Luke 10:2

How did Jesus point out to the 70 that the task was dangerous?

Luke 10:3

How could they hope to accomplish their task as lambs among wolves?

John 10:11-15

How did Jesus point out to the 70 that the task was urgent?

Luke 10:4

Why did Jesus make them worry about food, clothing and shelter on an important and urgent task?

Matthew 6:25-34

### Look for the Welcome Mat (*Luke 10:5-8*)

How would the Lord provide the essentials of life for these men?

Luke 10:5-7

Why did Jesus say *a worker deserves his wages*?

1 Corinthians 9:7-11, 14

What risk would there be for a Jew taking free room and board at a stranger's house?

Leviticus 11:46-47

How did Jesus tell them to handle this situation?

Luke 10:8

How did Paul later explain this to the Corinthians?

1 Corinthians 8:7-8; 10:27

### Handling Rejection (*Luke 10:9-14*)

What were the workers to do in a town where they found a welcome mat?

Luke 10:9

What were the workers to do in a town where there was no welcome mat to be found?

Luke 10:10-11

What example did Jesus provide to show how such towns should be considered?

Luke 10:12

Was Jesus referring to towns that he would never visit because of their rejection?

Luke 10:13-14

*Bethsaida* - Home of Peter, Andrew, Philip (John 1:44); On Sea of Galilee near Capernaum

Jesus preached and healed there (Mark 8:22-26, Luke 9:10-17)

*Korazin* - 2.5 miles north of Capernaum; Not mentioned anywhere else in Bible

Barclay - *It is implied that Jesus did many mighty works there...it is never even mentioned.*

*We do not know one thing that Jesus did or one word that He spoke there.*

*Nothing could show so vividly how much we do not know about the life of Jesus.*

*The gospels are not biographies; they are only sketches of His life (John 21:25).*

Tyre and Sidon - Gentile cities considered pagan by Jews, Elijah resurrected widow's son there

Jezebel was daughter of king of Sidon and brought Baal worship to Israel (1 Kings 16:30-32)

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Who is Being Rejected? (*Luke 10:15-16*)

Were such towns at risk of judgment because Jesus hadn't spent enough time there?

Luke 10:15

If a worker couldn't find a welcome mat in a town, could he just not be looking good enough?

Luke 10:16

Could it be that the town just didn't like the worker but could have accepted the message?

Matthew 25:40, 45

As called workers of Jesus, what should we remember?

2 Corinthians 5:20

Results (*Luke 10:17-20*)

How effective were these 70 workers in the harvest field?

Luke 10:17

Couldn't anyone exorcise demons just by the power of Jesus' name?

Acts 19:13-16

Did their success surprise Jesus?

Luke 10:18-19

Was this the most important thing the workers should get out of their experiences?

Luke 10:20

Some refs on Book of Life: Ex 32:32-33; Ps 69:28; Dan 12:1; Mal 3:16; Rev 20:12-15

Jesus' Response (*Luke 10:21-24*)

How did Jesus respond to hearing the experiences of the 70?

Luke 10:21-22

Did the disciples understand that they were the first to be learning God's hidden secrets?

Luke 10:23-24

Didn't Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah and others understand these truths?

1 Peter 1:10-12

Closing Prayer

**Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How have I responded to Jesus' call to take His message ahead?  
(*Luke 10:1; 9:1-2, 52; Isaiah 49:6; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16, 20; Acts 1:8; 2:41-47; 1 Peter 3:15*)
2. When have I done the work of a worker in God's harvest field?  
(*Luke 10:2; Mark 16:20; Acts 8:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:20; 1 Thess. 3:2; Titus 1:5*)
3. In what ways have I trusted God to provide for my needs?  
(*Luke 10:5-8; 12:22-34; Psalm 115:9-13; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 26:4; John 14:1; 15:16; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Philippians 4:19*)
4. How have I reacted when I felt my witness has been rejected?  
(*Luke 10:10-11, 16; Matthew 10:32-42; Mark 8:38; John 15:18-27; 2 Timothy 2:12*)
5. What evidences of God's power have I seen when I have done His work?  
(*Luke 10:17-20; John 20:22-23; Acts 2:1-21; 3:12-16; 4:33; 19:17-20; Romans 15:18-19; Ephesians 1:18-19; 3:16-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5*)