

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 = In Galilee since Jews in Judea wanted Him dead

What caused Him to go to Judea despite the danger?

John 7:2, 10 = Went to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (in fall)

Was it really dangerous for Jesus to be in Jerusalem?

John 7:11-13, 25-26 = Yes, even the people knew of the danger

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 = Because His time had not yet come

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 = No. He returned for Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah, in winter)

Did Jesus run into danger during this visit?

John 10:31, 39 = Yes. The Jews tried to stone and capture Him

What reason did they give for wanting to kill Him?

John 10:30-33 = Jesus claimed to be God – blasphemy was to result in death by stoning

Where did Jesus go after this time in Jerusalem?

John 10:40-42 = Perea, region east of Judea and Jordan River

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 = Last part of Luke 9 is Jesus heading to Jerusalem

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

Luke 13:22 = Jesus headed back to Jerusalem in middle of Luke 13

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 = not Galilee

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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 = He sent 72 *ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go*

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

Luke 9:51-52 = He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village on His way to the F of Ts

How did this approach work then?

Luke 9:53 = They were rejected because they were Jews heading for Jerusalem

How did the disciples react to this rejection?

Luke 9:54 = James and John wanted to *call fire down from heaven to destroy them*

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

2 Kings 1:9-12 = Elijah called down fire on 100 soldiers of Ahaziah, king of Israel

What did Jesus think of this idea? = God would punish them Himself for rejecting His Son

Luke 9:55-56 = He rebuked them and went to another village

Prior Experience (Luke 9:1-6)

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

Luke 9:1-2 = The 12 apostles had been given power and sent throughout Galilee

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

Luke 9:3 = They were to take nothing with them, rely entirely on God to provide

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

Luke 9:4 = God would lead them to a house where they'd stay and be provided for

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

Luke 9:5 = They were to reject it as they had been rejected – not call down fire

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

Luke 9:6, 10a = Preached and healed from village to village as told, then reported back

Seventy Others (Luke 10:1)

Did Jesus send out the Twelve again to Judea/Perea in today's story? = Or 70 – see NIV note

Luke 10:1 = No, He called seventy others and sent them 2-by-2 to Judean towns

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

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25 = Moses selected 70, God empowered them with His Spirit

Why might some versions of Luke say 72?

Numbers 11:26 = There may have been 72 that were called and empowered by God

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

Mark 15:1 = The Sanhedrin

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

Genesis 10:1, 32 = Chapter lists what the Jews knew as the 70 nations of the world

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

Luke 10:7-8 = *Stay in house, do not move, eat what is set before you - even Gentile (nations)*

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

Deuteronomy 19:15 = At least two witnesses must agree for something to be accepted

Should we remember this when bringing the good news to others? = We need His presence

Matthew 18:19-20 = *Where 2 or 3 come together in My name, there I am with them*

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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? = Gather harvest when ripe

Luke 10:2 = *Harvest is plentiful, but workers are few. Workers ask for more workers*

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

Luke 10:3 = *I am sending you out like lambs among wolves!*

How could they hope to accomplish their task as lambs among wolves? = Trust in His care

John 10:11-15 = *I am the Good Shepherd ... and I lay down My life for the sheep*

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

Luke 10:4 = Similar to instructions to 12, don't even take time to greet anyone

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

Matthew 6:25-34 = They were not to worry, but trust the Lord to provide

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

How would the Lord provide the essentials of life for these men? = No moving for better deals

Luke 10:5-7 = Righteous men of peace would welcome them and provide for them

Why did Jesus say *a worker deserves his wages*? = Called workers shouldn't worry about pay.

1 Corinthians 9:7-11, 14 = They should be paid to keep from worrying about pay

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

Leviticus 11:46-47 = Jews had lots of food regulations. Couldn't be sure it was clean

How did Jesus tell them to handle this situation?

Luke 10:8 = *eat what is set before you*

How did Paul later explain this to the Corinthians?

1 Corinthians 8:7-8; 10:27 = Food will not make us clean or unclean before God

Handling Rejection (Luke 10:9-14)

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

Luke 10:9 = Preach and show God's power

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

Luke 10:10-11 = Rebuke them and don't even let any of their dust stay with you

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

Luke 10:12 = Even Sodom, the worst known to man, will be better off

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

Luke 10:13-14 = Any town that did not receive and believe

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 = Even Capernaum, Jesus' home base, had not accepted him to their merit
If a worker couldn't find a welcome mat in a town, could he just not be looking good enough?

Luke 10:16 = No, he is only the messenger. The message was accepted or rejected
Could it be that the town just didn't like the worker but could have accepted the message?

Matthew 25:40, 45 = To accept or reject even the least worker is like doing so to Him
As called workers of Jesus, what should we remember?

2 Corinthians 5:20 = *We are Christ's ambassadors*, God makes His appeal through us

Results (Luke 10:17-20)

How effective were these 70 workers in the harvest field?

Luke 10:17 = They were amazed at the success and power they had
Couldn't anyone exorcise demons just by the power of Jesus' name?

Acts 19:13-16 = No, demons overpowered those who used Jesus' name without faith
Did their success surprise Jesus?

Luke 10:18-19 = No, He saw it as another battle won against Satan and his forces
Was this the most important thing the workers should get out of their experiences?

Luke 10:20 = Nothing can be more important than having a place waiting in heaven
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 = He praised the Father for revealing his eternal secrets to them
Did the disciples understand that they were the first to be learning God's hidden secrets?

Luke 10:23-24 = Jesus told them

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

1 Peter 1:10-12 = They and angels wanted to understand but couldn't - they trusted

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)