



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK THREE

Pastor Jacob taught on the first 3 verses of Luke 10 which are part of a larger section describing the sending out of Jesus' disciples. Jesus knew that his work on earth would spread exponentially if he would send out others to share the good news of God's coming Kingdom. The movement will always be about Jesus, but it will require the response of his followers. We heard from Olympic Medalist Doug Sharp about his journey of pursuing his dream and being commissioned for greatness. This week, we will discover the ways in which we are sent and supported by a loving God. To learn more about Doug Sharp see the link below.

<https://olympics.com/en/athletes/doug-sharp>

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 10.1-3 (ESV)

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.² And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

- The author of Luke is also the author of Acts. Acts is all about the continuation of the movement of Jesus after his ascension to Heaven. What Jesus did in Luke 10 prepared the way for that shift. If the good news of Jesus Christ was really going to reach the ends of the earth, then it would have to go through his disciples. But as you have read, Jesus planned to still visit those places as well. As his disciples, we don't "bring Jesus" to new places, we prepare the way for him to show up, even *as lambs in the midst of wolves*. **Have you ever had a sense that God was sending you to a place or a person so you could till the soil ahead of God's great work? Describe how it feels to be used by God in this kind of way.**

- *God, thank you for using me in big or small ways to offer Jesus to a broken world. Here I am, send me! Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 10.4-12 (ESV)

Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!'⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you.⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say,¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

- Jesus didn't oversell the mission. It would be hard, it would be risky (lambs among wolves). Disciples have to depend completely on God. And so, in what some have considered to be an almost hyperbolic list of crutches and distractions, Jesus lays out the items not to take with them. These are items that one might depend on for travel and safety. And to talk to someone on the way to the mission, might delay the mission. The mission was (is) urgent. By sending the disciples out in this way, he was sending a group of beggars to preach and heal among the beggars. No matter how they would be received, the message needed to be shared, *The Kingdom of God has come near!* **Have you ever been on either end of a mission that didn't go well or wasn't well received? Are there things in your life that, if you left them behind, might help you to depend on Jesus?**
- *God, may my words and actions today declare your Kingdom to everyone I encounter. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 10.13-16 (ESV)

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶ *"The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."*

- Those who have rejected the good news receive more judgment than those who have not heard it. The people of the towns listed by Jesus in these verses have hardened their hearts. For the ones sent out by Jesus, the words of verse 16 are weighty. So much responsibility! A disciple who is on mission will speak about Jesus, he or she will be heard. And when the people hear the disciple, they hear from Jesus. This requires a lot of confidence (in Jesus) and humility on the part of those sent out. If we stay on mission, rejection is possible (maybe even likely) but it is not us who are ultimately rejected, it is Jesus. **We have all seen representatives of Jesus who have forgotten that their work is all about Jesus. How can you strive to stay focused on Jesus as you go about your life as a disciple?**

- *Jesus, I have heard the good news of your coming Kingdom, forgive me of the times when I made it about me. Help me to keep my eyes on you. Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 10.17-20 (ESV)

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"¹⁸ And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

- We don't have all of the details of what happened during the journey of the 72. What we know is that they returned with joy. They witnessed the power of Christ in them. Jesus helped them to direct their joy towards their eternal reward in heaven, rather than their earthly dominion over spirits. We who are called by God to represent his Son in the world will find great joy in the work, not because it makes us appear to be more powerful and blessed, but because we are aligned with the rescue mission God is carrying out through us. **Have you ever witnessed a power or wisdom that seems to be coming from beyond your own abilities?**
- *God, may I return to you each day with a heart of joy and gratitude for the work you have prepared for me and called me to do. Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 10.21-24 (ESV)

In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²³ *Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."*

- Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit in response to the joy experienced by the 72. He knew that his purpose was to reveal God to a world and a people that had misunderstood him. When you see Jesus you see the Father. Consider that this is true of us as well. When we are on mission, people see Jesus in us! **How are others seeing Jesus in you in your daily life? Do you have the desire of kings and prophets to see the big picture of what God is up to?**
- *Jesus, I rejoice in your rejoicing over me! I have seen you at work in my life. Send me into the mission field for you. I will go where you call me to go. I*

SATURDAY: MATTHEW 28.16-20 (NIV)

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Jacob shared that these words (referred to as the Great Commission) give disciples authority and confidence. We need both as disciples. The authority came from the Father to the Son, and the Son passes it along to us! It's why our celebrations of baptisms are best done in the presence of the whole church. The authority to do so has been granted to the disciples who make disciples!
What goes through your heart and mind when you see a baptism?
- *Holy God, I receive the authority and confidence that comes from you. May I live faithfully for your Kingdom. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Watch (or rewatch) the interview with Doug Sharp, Olympic Medalist, from Sunday's Message
https://youtu.be/D4NV117v_Hk

- What did you find inspiring about Doug's story?
- When did he feel commissioned to pursue his dream? How did his dream change?
- What parts of his story reveal what is required when you are commissioned to do something?
- At one point, he said that he is still discovering his purpose in this season of his life. Do you relate to that sense (no matter where you are in life)?
- Where did you see God at work in his story?
- What is God calling you to?