
SERMON
LUKE - ACTS
SERIES



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

HEAD

- The Kingdom agency is a GOING and SENDING enterprise.
- Let us pray all night like Jesus, so that the Father can give us wisdom regarding who we are called to pour our lives into as disciples.
- We pray people will pursue the ministries at all of our Reconcile churches because they believe we have the mighty WORDS and WORKS of Jesus.

– Luke 6:12-19 –



HEART

- (1) Jesus prayed all night before selecting the twelve disciples, even though as God he already knew who they would be – what does this reveal about the relationship between prayer and major decisions in your own life, and how might your decision-making change if you prioritized extended time with the Father?

– Luke 6:12-19 –



HEART

- (2) The word ‘apostle’ means ‘sent one,’ and the sermon emphasizes that God has always been a sending God – in what specific ways do you see yourself as a sent person in your current season of life, and what might be holding you back from fully embracing that identity?

– Luke 6:12-19 –



HEART

- (3) Andrew largely lived in the shadow of his more prominent brother Peter, yet it was Andrew who first found Jesus and brought Peter to him – how does Andrew's story challenge the way we measure significance or impact in the kingdom of God?

– Luke 6:12-19 –



HEART

- (4) Thomas is often remembered as ‘Doubting Thomas,’ yet it was Thomas who made one of the greatest declarations about Jesus in all of Scripture when he said ‘My Lord and my God’ – how does reducing people to their worst moments prevent us from seeing the full picture of their faith journey?

– Luke 6:12-19 –



HEART

- (5) Jesus chose Judas Iscariot knowing he would be a traitor, because Judas was essential to the path to the Cross – what does this tell us about how God can use even betrayal, failure, and brokenness as instruments within his sovereign plan?

– Luke 6:12-19 –



HEART

- (6) The people in the crowd were so desperate to access Jesus' healing power that they pressed through to touch him rather than waiting for him to come to them – what would it look like for your pursuit of Jesus to carry that same kind of urgency and desperation in your daily life?

– Luke 6:12-19 –



HEART

- (7) The sermon points out that all of Jesus' disciples except Judas Iscariot were Galileans from the same region, while Judas was the lone outsider – what does this observation invite us to consider about the dynamics of trust, community, and belonging within the groups we form?

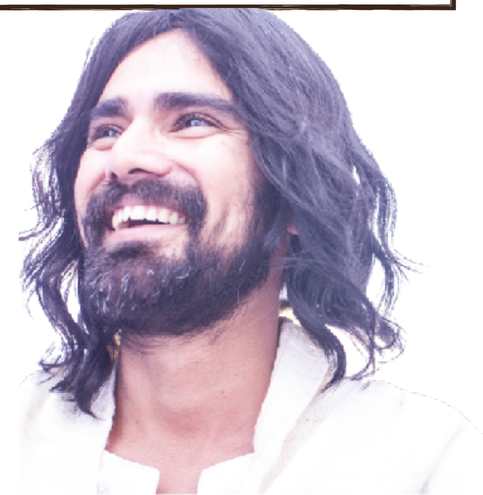
– Luke 6:12-19 –



HANDS

- Choose ONE of the following action steps:
  - **Option 1:** Prayer for a Disciple. Set aside an extended block of time – even if it is not a full night – to bring a current decision or relationship before God in focused prayer. Come to that time with a specific question: Who is God calling you to pour your life into?

– Luke 6:12-19 –



HANDS

- Choose ONE of the following action steps:
  - **Option 2:** Assessment. Reflect honestly on whether your faith is currently characterized by both mighty words and mighty works. Write down one area where you are strong and one area where you are weak. Share it with a trusted person in your group and ask them to hold you accountable.

– Luke 6:12-19 –



HANDS

- Choose ONE of the following action steps:
  - **Option 3**: Reflective. Read through the four lists of the apostles – Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:14-16, and Acts 1:13 – and notice the similarities and differences. Let that exercise remind you that God uses ordinary, specific, named people to carry out his mission.

– Luke 6:12-19 –





FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: The Discipline of Communing Before Deciding

Reading: Luke 6:12 – Jesus spent an entire night in prayer before selecting the twelve apostles. Read also James 1:5, which describes God as one who gives wisdom generously to those who ask, and Psalm 46:10, which calls us to stillness before God.

- **Devotional:** Before Jesus made one of the most consequential decisions in the history of redemption, he did not consult a committee, review a resume, or rely on his own instincts. He prayed all night. This is staggering when you consider that Jesus, as the eternal Son of God, already knew who the twelve would be before the foundation of the world. Yet he still withdrew to the mountain and communed with the Father through the night. The lesson is not that prayer changes God's mind. The lesson is that prayer changes us. It orients our hearts, aligns our will with the Father's, and prepares us for the weight of what we are about to carry. Many of us make life-altering decisions in haste, consulting everyone except God. We poll our friends, scroll through our options, and weigh our preferences. Jesus modeled a different way. He modeled a way of deep, extended, unhurried communion with the Father before stepping into decisive action. What decision are you currently facing? What would it look like to bring that decision to the Father not in a brief, hurried prayer, but in extended, intentional communion?
- **Reflection:** Is there a significant decision in your life right now that you have not yet fully surrendered to God in prayer? Set aside extended time this week to bring it before the Father.

– Luke 6:12-19 –



Day 2: Called and Sent – Living as an Apostolic People

Reading: Luke 6:13 – Jesus called his disciples and named them apostles. Read also John 20:21, where Jesus says that as the Father sent him, so he sends us, and Matthew 28:18-20, which summarizes the scope of the sending mission.

- **Devotional:** The word apostle carries a meaning that is both simple and staggering. It means sent one. Jesus did not gather the twelve simply to teach them theology in a classroom. He gathered them so that he could send them. The sending nature of God runs throughout the entire biblical story. God sent Abraham. God sent Moses. God sent the prophets. And ultimately, God sent his own Son. Now, through his Son, God sends us. The kingdom of God is not a passive institution where people gather to receive without ever going to give. It is a going and sending enterprise. Every follower of Jesus carries the identity of a sent one. You have been placed in your neighborhood, your workplace, your family, and your city on purpose. The question is not whether you have been sent. The question is whether you are living with the awareness and intentionality of someone who has been. The apostles were ordinary people, fishermen and tax collectors and zealots, whom Jesus commissioned for an extraordinary purpose. He does the same with you.
- **Reflection:** In what specific context has God placed you where you can function as a sent one this week? Name that place and one person in it whom you can intentionally serve or speak truth to.

– Luke 6:12-19 –



Day 3: Unlikely People, Unshakeable Purpose
Reading: Luke 6:14-16 – The list of the twelve apostles. Read also 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, which describes how God chooses what the world considers foolish and weak to accomplish his purposes.

- **Devotional**: When you survey the twelve apostles, you do not find an impressive roster by the world's standards. You find fishermen who smelled like their trade. You find a despised tax collector who had built his livelihood on betraying his own people. You find a political zealot whose instincts leaned toward violence as a solution to oppression. You find a man history would remember primarily for his doubt. And you find a treasurer who was secretly stealing from the group and would ultimately sell the Son of God for the price of a common slave. This is the team Jesus chose to catalyze a kingdom movement that would reach every corner of the earth. This should do something to the way you see yourself. God is not waiting for you to become impressive before he uses you. He is looking for people who are willing. The twelve were not qualified by their credentials. They were qualified by their proximity to Jesus and their willingness to follow him. Your flaws do not disqualify you from kingdom purpose. They simply remind you that the power belongs to God and not to you.
- **Reflection**: What personal weakness or past failure have you allowed to convince you that God cannot use you significantly? Bring that specific thing before God in prayer today and ask him to reframe it through the lens of his purpose.

– Luke 6:12-19 –



Day 4: Hungry Enough to Come From Far Away

Reading: Luke 6:17-18 – Great crowds came from both the south and the north to hear Jesus and to be healed. Read also Psalm 42:1-2, which describes a deep soul-thirst for God, and Amos 8:11, which speaks of a famine not of bread but of hearing the word of God.

- **Devotional:** The people who gathered around Jesus in Luke 6 did not stumble upon him accidentally. They came on purpose. They traveled from Jerusalem and Judea in the south and from Tyre and Sidon in the north. These were not short commutes. These were extended journeys made by people who had decided that what Jesus offered was worth the cost of getting there. They came with two specific purposes: to hear him and to be healed. They were hungry for his words and desperate for his works. It is worth asking ourselves honestly whether we carry that same hunger. We live in an era of unprecedented access to Scripture, to teaching, to worship. And yet accessibility can quietly erode appetite. When something costs us nothing, we can begin to value it accordingly. The crowds in Luke 6 remind us that the Word of God and the works of God are worth pursuing at great personal cost. They are worth rearranging your schedule, your comfort, and your convenience to receive.
- **Reflection:** On a scale of genuine honesty, how hungry are you right now for the Word of God and the works of God in your life? What practical step can you take this week to stoke that hunger rather than simply waiting for it to return on its own?

– Luke 6:12-19 –



Day 5: Power Flowing Outward – A Ministry of Words and Works
Reading: Luke 6:19 – The whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus because power was coming out from him and healing them all. Read also Acts 10:38, which summarizes how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, and James 2:14-17, which challenges a faith that consists of words without corresponding deeds.

- **Devotional:** The image in Luke 6:19 is one of the most vivid in all the Gospels. The crowd was not waiting politely in an orderly line. They were pressing in, reaching out, straining to make contact with Jesus because they believed that power was flowing out of him and that even a touch was enough to change everything. They were right. And this image carries a challenge for every church and every believer who claims to follow Jesus. Our ministry must be characterized by both mighty words and mighty works. It is not enough to preach truth without washing feet. It is not enough to serve needs without speaking the truth that gives those needs their ultimate context. Jesus never separated doctrine from deeds. He taught with authority and he healed with compassion in the same breath, in the same crowd, on the same day. The world around us is pressing in with real suffering, real bondage, and real desperation. The question is whether they will find in us a source of both the word that transforms the mind and the works that demonstrate the love of the Father. May the power of Jesus flow through us outward to those who are reaching.
- **Reflection:** In your current rhythms of life and ministry, which do you lean toward more heavily: words or works? What would it look like to more intentionally hold both together this week in a specific and practical way?

– Luke 6:12-19 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for knowing me by name and calling me into Your Kingdom movement, just as Jesus called each of the twelve disciples. Help me embrace this calling with gratitude, humility, and wholehearted devotion.

Father, cultivate in me a prayer life that prioritizes communion with You before major decisions and commitments. Teach me to seek Your presence, listen for Your wisdom, and trust Your direction above my own understanding.

Lord Jesus, I pray for those in my life who need to hear Your mighty words and experience Your mighty works. Open their hearts to Your truth, and give me the courage, compassion, and discernment to help them encounter You.

Father, may my response to Your calling echo the words of Isaiah: “Here am I, Lord. Send me!” Remove my excuses, overcome my fears, and strengthen my faith to go wherever You lead and faithfully participate in Your mission of reconciling people to Yourself through Jesus Christ. In Jesus’ beautiful, wonderful, and powerful name, Amen.


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