

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

—Acts 2:47 NIV

What was the church doing to see God add to their number daily?

1. Went out - into the community
2. Spoke out - the good news

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

—Romans 10:14-17 NIV

3. Acted out - the model of Jesus

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. 5 “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ 6 If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. 8 “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered

to you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you.

—Luke 10:1-11 NIV

What we learn from Jesus' model:

If you're going to go out, you better go out...

1. With Power - Matthew says Jesus gave them authority (drive out demons and perform miracles).
2. In Prayer - "Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers" (also Matthew 9:38).
3. With an expectation of discomfort - "Sending you out like lambs among wolves"
4. With an open ear to God's voice - (Don't take a bag or sandals Luke 10:4, "take a bag and sandals" Lk 22:36).
5. Focused on individuals - a person who promotes peace is:
 - *Welcoming - "when you enter a house",
 - *Opens their household - opens their oikos,
 - *Listens to the message - 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'
6. In order to see "Households" saved - Don't go from house to house (vs 7).
7. To bless - "heal the sick" Matthew "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."
8. Not to force the message - wipe the dust off of your feet and move to the next town.

What is one way you are being asked to go out?

Who could you share your story with this week who doesn't know Jesus?

Make a list of possible persons of peace you can start praying for...