Discussion Questions



Sent in Pairs

Based on Luke 10:1-4 and Acts 13:2-3

Key Takeaways

- The church exists to send people out, not simply to gather them in. A building, no matter how large or well-designed, is a means to a mission, not the mission itself.
- Jesus sent the seventy-two before they were fully ready, without adequate resources, and into real danger. The same conditions often apply to us today.
- Every believer has been sent somewhere specific -- a family, a neighborhood, a workplace, a school. These are not incidental locations. They are mission fields.
- The gifts and temperaments God has placed in you are not accidental. Downplaying them is not humility. It can become an excuse to do nothing or a thief that robs you of the joy of serving.
- The church in Antioch moved from consuming ministry to commissioning it. That same shift is the call on every local church and every individual believer.

Opening Question

Take a few minutes at the start of your group time to reflect on this before diving into deeper discussion.

Think about the place where you spend the most time outside of home -- a workplace, a school, a gym, a community group. When you are there, do you think of yourself as someone who has been sent there by Jesus? Why or why not?

Discussion Questions

On the Passage and the Sermon

1. In Luke 10:1-4, Jesus sends out seventy-two people ahead of him into towns he was about to visit. Pastor Ike described them as forerunners who would prepare the way for Jesus. What does it look like practically for someone to prepare the way for Jesus in a workplace or neighborhood today?
2. Pastor Ike noted that Jesus sent the seventy-two before they felt ready, into danger, without adequate resources, and with a specific message. Which of those four conditions feels most challenging to you personally, and why?
3. Jesus told the seventy-two not to greet anyone on the road. Pastor Ike explained this as a call to urgency rather than rudeness, because lengthy Eastern greetings could cause them to lose sight of their mission. What are the modern equivalents of those lengthy greetings -- the things that distract us or delay us from acting on the call to go?
4. Pastor Ike drew a direct connection between Acts 13:2-3 and Luke 10. The Antioch church moved from consuming ministry to commissioning it when the Holy Spirit named Barnabas and Saul and told the church to send them. What would it look like for your own life to make that same shift -- from consuming to commissioning or being commissioned?
5. The sermon pointed out that the phrase "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" appears in nearly identical

form in both Matthew 9:37-38 and Luke 10:2, spoken once to the twelve and once to the seventy-two. What does the repetition of that statement tell us about how seriously Jesus took this reality? Does it change how you think about prayer for workers?

On Personal Sending

6. Pastor Ike asked two questions he wanted everyone to sit with this week. Take some time to discuss them together as a group:
    - To what are you sent? Name the specific people, places, and environments in your life.
    - With what are you sent? What gifts, abilities, temperaments, or skills has God placed in you?
7. Pastor Ike made a pointed observation: "*Stop telling yourself you have nothing to offer. It has likely become your excuse to do nothing. Or it is robbing you of the joy of serving*." How does that land with you? Have you experienced either of those outcomes in your own life?
8. The illustration about the pastor's wife Maria highlighted how different people reflect different gifts -- warmth, hospitality, memory for people's details -- and how easy it is to conclude that because you are not like someone else, God cannot use you. Where have you fallen into that comparison trap, and what has it cost you?

On the Church as a Sending Base

9. Pastor Ike said: "*We are not building just so that we can house more people or hold more people or run more in-house ministries. We are building a sending base*." How does that vision shape the way you personally engage with the life of this church -- your attendance, your serving, your giving?
10. Pastor Ike named three expectations -- pray, serve, and give -- were described not as optional extras but as what is

expected of anyone who calls this church home. How are you currently doing in each of those three areas? Where is there room to grow?

Practical Applications

These are the four challenges from the sermon. Work through them individually before your next group meeting and be prepared to share what you discovered.

1. Answer the two questions in writing. Write down the specific people and places you believe God has sent you to. Then write down two or three gifts or abilities you have, including ones you have historically downplayed. Bring your answers to your next group meeting.

2. Take one step. Choose one person already in your life. Reach out to them for coffee, offer to pray for them, offer practical help, or invite them to church. You do not need a program or a permission slip. If it feels too hard to do alone, ask someone from this group to do it with you.

3. Repent of your excuses. Be honest with yourself and with God about the specific lies you have believed about why you cannot be used. Name them. Bring them to God. Retire them.

4. Commit to pray, serve, and give.

- Pray specifically for God to raise up more workers, for the people on your list, and for the building expansion.
- Identify one area where you can serve, either now or when the new building opens.
- Prayerfully consider whether your giving reflects your belief that this church is a sending base, not just a building.

Closing Reflection

Read Luke 10:2 together as a group -- the verse where Jesus describes the harvest as plentiful and the workers as few, and calls his followers to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.

Then close your time in prayer. Pray specifically for one another by name. Ask God to clarify where each person in the room has been sent, to silence the lies that keep people from stepping out, and to raise up more workers from within your church and your group.

For Further Reflection During the Week

Read Acts 13:1-4 and consider what it cost the church in Antioch to release Barnabas and Saul. These were described as two of their finest leaders. What does it look like for a church -- or for an individual -- to hold people and resources with open hands rather than closed ones?