

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"BRINGING THE KINGDOM OF GOD NEAR TO THE LOST" | LUKE 10:1-24 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What crop would be the most fun to harvest? Most difficult?

"The Sending of the 72" (Luke 10: 1-16)

As Jesus sends out 72 followers to share the gospel, he says "pray earnestly" because "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" in verse 2. **How should knowing there are a lot of people who need to hear the gospel impact people who follow Jesus?**

What does praying earnestly for people to share the gospel look like?

Jesus gives a list of instructions for his followers to do as they share the gospel in verses 4-11 **Which one(s) are easy to understand? Surprising? Difficult? Why?**

"The Rejoicing of the 72 and the Savior" (Luke 10: 17-24)

Jesus rejoices as the 72 rejoice over the miracles and moments they had as they traveled and shared the gospel, giving them encouragement and revealing more of the significance of their work. **What does that show about Jesus? What does that mean for His followers today?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Pastor Brian pointed out that Jesus followers just need to respond to his call for more laborers for the harvest and ask "Which field, Lord?". And then he went on to point out that usually it's the field we're already in: work, school, neighborhood, friends, etc.

What area of your life could you share about what Jesus has done for you? Are there other believers you could partner with in this area? Pray for more laborers, and listen to God if he asks you to share.

Luke 10:1-24

7-17-22

Bringing the Kingdom of God Near to the Lost

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2-5 Cam: Youth Camps (2). Fam Night. C@R.

B. Slide6 Rohingya Emergency Request: This week we have received an emergency request from **Jaya** our national partner in Nepal. We were made aware that their corrugated roofs are leaking, it is *Monsoon Season*.

1. There are **175 structures** that need **a tarp** to cover their corrugated tin roofs. **It is only \$20.00 per tarp**. We would like to help keep them dry. You can give thru Web or App. **Give > Rohingya Needs** (drop down list).

C. Slide7 Prayer:

II. Intro: Bringing the Kingdom of God Near to the Lost

A. Slide8a There once was a popular expression, "***He was a brick!***" The term implied all that is brave and loyal. **Plutarch**, in writing about **the king of Sparta**, tells how the phrase was coined. - An ambassador on a diplomatic mission visited the famous city. Knowing that its strength was acclaimed throughout all of Greece, he had expected to see massive fortresses surrounding the town, but he found nothing of the kind. Surprised, he exclaimed to the ruler, "*Sir, you have no fortifications for defense. Why is this?*" "Ah, but we are **well protected**," he replied. "Come with me tomorrow and I will show you **the walls of Sparta**." The next day he led his guest to the plain where the army was drawn up in full battle array. Pointing proudly to Slide8b **his soldiers** who stood fearlessly in place, he said, "***Behold the walls of Sparta - 10,000 men and every man a brick!***"

1. I believe this is how God sees **us**, **His Church**. *Each believer a brave & loyal brick ... as He constructs His Kingdom.*
2. **i.e.** The bible starts with **God** doing everything Himself (ch.1-11). **Then** He shifts to using a man **Abraham** (ch.12). **And then the patriarchs** (through the rest of Genesis).

3. **Then in the NT** it started with **Jesus**. The Jesus adds 12 bricks/Apostles. **Now** we read He had added 72 others that followed, **and** would help to reap the harvest. [**then** 120 Acts 1. **3000** Acts 2. **5000** Acts 4] God loves #'s.
- B. **The Galilee ministry is now closed, & the long slow journey to Jerusalem begun.**
 1. Today's story takes place either Samaria **or** in Perea (Gk. for *beyond*, i.e. beyond the Jordan). **Either one typify's foreign missions.**
- C. **Most of ch.'s 10-18** is *only here* in Luke (except 11:14-32).

III. Slide9 **THE SENDING OF THE 72 (1-16)** *READ*

A. Vs.1 sets the stage for the *instructions* that follow.

B. Slide10a **GOD'S PART**

1. **He appoints** the harvesters (the foundation for all christian work).
2. **He sends** the people.
3. **He makes the harvest plentiful** (Describes the large number of people ready to receive Jesus' kingdom message and the relatively few people available to share the message of the kingdom of God). **It is His harvest, He is the Lord of it.**
 - a) **Let's remember, the gospel will bear fruit.** Remember we are **not** the primary ingredient, **the Holy Spirit is!**
 - b) Mission work has gone on 2000 years now. *The harvest is still great & the laborers are still few :(*

C. Slide10b **OUR PART**

D. **Therefore Pray** - Prayer is a **priority**. Prayer is **participation** in the mission.

1. **Slide11** A.J. Gordon said, "***You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.***" [founder: Gordon College & Gordon-Conwell Theo Sem]
2. **Pray earnestly** - note Jesus' **urgency** ... **2000 years ago!**

3. Bible **does not say**, *pray for the harvest* (no need to). **Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest**. **Easy peasy, we can do that!**

4. **How do we send out more missionaries?** The answer isn't better recruitment (although it has its place). The answer isn't more education or more conferences (even though those can encourage the saints to do the work of ministry) **but** the answer is **Persistent Prayer**.

a) I love how the text turns around on itself, **as** the ones who *pray for harvesters are then* the one's being **sent out** as the harvesters.

They were the answer to their own prayer! [Mat Laster, praying for evang Shipka]

E. **Slide12 Go your way.**

1. Be encouraged laborers ... that **the harvest is greater than laborers**.

F. **Be lamb like**. To show **gentleness & inoffensiveness & cultural sensitivity**.

1. **Expect opposition** (because of *a world full of wolves*). A boxers/MMA fighters aren't shocked when they get punched in the face.

G. **Do's and Dont's:**

1. **Don't** take your wallet, backpack, or extra sandals.

a) **Dependance on God** when it comes to *ministry* (just like in Lk.9 w/the 12).

2. **Don't** greet people on the road (more like the Yiddish word **Schmooze** = No long drawn out empty compliments. **Get to your business at hand, Salvation of souls!**).

3. **Do** bless the house w/a **Peace to this House** when you arrive, bringing **safety, security and good health** to it.

a) I agree with the **Missionary Strategy** (aka, L10 evangelism) of finding **a man of peace** where you are working in the world.

b) **Jaya in Nepal is my man of peace**. I also made a friend **Nischal** there that saved me 3/4 times on the last trip [a Nepali, I met in my hotel's gym. I see him each time I go back. Showed up like an angel at hotel counter forgot PCR test to travel home].

4. Do eat and drink what they provide - *adapt yourself to their culture, do not insist that they adapt to yours.*
5. Do heal and proclaim (9). Exercise your faith in **Word and Deed**.
- a) Sounds like God wants us *up close & personal* to those we minister to.
- b) Slide13 Philip Rykin (Pres Wheaton College) said, *“The kingdom of God comes through the proclamation of the gospel, and then is confirmed by the loving care of the people who proclaim it.”*
- c) So it’s the **Word** and the **love** and the **care** with which we proclaim it, and the **activity** that we do that surround it. *Together they are a powerful 1-2 combination.* Harvesting in Gods vineyard requires both.
- (1) *When God calls you, you need to go.* If it’s to reimagine your priorities in your current job, or to love Christ and others better, **go**. If it’s to go help with a church plant, **go**. If it’s to be re-deployed to your neighborhood with a new intentionality, **go**.
- (2) If it’s to the nations, *then **GO** and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* [great commission]

H. Many people share their faith starting with *declaring what God has done*. They *lead w/their transformation*.

1. Like *the woman at the well* when she said, *this man has told me all that I have ever done*. Or *the man born blind* who when asked *who healed him*, said, *I don’t know, all I know is, I was once blind but now I see*.
- a) Maybe your testimony is, *I was once **short tempered** but now I'm growing in patience. Or, I was once **intimate** with anyone who would make me feel special but now I'm cherished by God. Or, I was once **bitter** but now God has made me content. Or, I was once filled with **pride** but now Jesus has come into my life.*

(1) Often if we begin with *how God has changed us* ... it leads to a **conversation** *not* a debate.

I. Slide14a REJECTION (10-12)

1. What a **radical responsibility** of hearing the message *& not responding*.
2. The message of truth is to be proclaimed *whether it is welcomed or not*.
3. **Good news** is only **good news** if they *receive it in time*.

J. Slide14b CITIES OF DOOM (13-16)

1. Christian workers don't need to be surprised if **no results** follow your faithful witness.

IV. Slide15 **THE REJOICING OF THE 72 (17-20) READ**

A. Slide16 **Joy & rejoice** are the keys to this passage.

B. The 70 returned with **joy** after their *successful short term mission's trip*.

1. **Spiritual victories** are the most satisfying in life.

C. (18) While **they** were expelling **the subordinates/demons**, **Jesus** was remembering *the chief of demons* falling years ago. [probably reflecting on the fact that his *power* had been **broken and that** he was subject to Jesus' authority]

1. Language describing the ultimate triumph over Satan & all evil.

D. (19) **Christ's biddings are His enablings!**

E. (20) **Jesus shared in their joy**, **but** reminded them to rejoice primarily **not in** being empowered for service, **but in having been saved by grace!**

1. After all, their work might not always be successful...but their salvation would never change.

F. **Written** - is in the *perfect tense* (action is complete, **but** has an ongoing state of being), which means the believers name stands written in heaven, & always will be written in heaven.

V. Slide17 **THE REJOICING OF THE SAVIOR (21-24) READ**

- A. We don't always get to see **Jesus' emotions**, **but** don't miss it here in the word **joy**.
1. Jesus **rejoiced** because the Father's will was being accomplished in their lives. *What brings joy to your heart?*
- B. (23,24) This wraps up w/the significance of this time that the disciples were living in.
1. For us, this is a great time to be alive, as we have all been called to be harvesters we just need to ask, **in which field?** Which I think is easy to answer, *Harvest in the field you are in, until he moves you into another field.*
 - a) **I.e.** Harvest in the field of home, and work, and school, and play, and hobbies, and where you live, and your community, and your world.
- C. **End:**
- D. **What are we reminded to pray for specifically?** (the Lord to send out laborers)
- E. **In the beginning I quoted:** *Behold the walls of Sparta - 10,000 men and every man a brick!* [each soldier *a brave & loyal brick* making up Sparta]
1. I believe this is how God sees **us** / **His Church**. *Each believer a brave & loyal brick ... as He constructs His Kingdom.*
 2. **CM saints you are a brick!** [no I wouldn't say, *All we are is just another brick in the wall*, of course :)] *pink floyd trauma, building a wall around himself*
 3. **No** I'm thinking of **Abraham** who said, *he was waiting for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God*. And **Peter** who said, *you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious*. [Heb.11:10; 1 Pet.2:4]
- F. Let's together be **Bringing the Kingdom of God Near to the Lost!**
- G. Keywords: prayer, great commission.