

Kingdom Vision: The Invitation
Growth Group Discussion
Luke 9-10

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God's word.
 - If some philanthropist gave you \$1 million to put towards meeting a need in our community, how would you use that money?
1. **READ Luke 9:1-6 and Luke 10:1-4, 17**
 - What similarities do you see in these two stories?
 - What differences do you see between them?
 - Read Matthew 28:16-20. In view of v. 20a, what bearing do Jesus' instructions in Luke 9 and 10 have on our understanding of our role?
 - On Sunday, Josh highlighted the fact that **the invitation to follow Jesus is an invitation to join him in his mission**. Do you see your role as one of joining Jesus in his mission, or do you see that role as being for particular, more devoted Christians?
 2. **READ Mark 5:35-43 and Acts 9:36-41.**
 - What impact do you think that the healing story in Mark's Gospel had on Peter?
 - What similarities do you see in Peter's actions (Acts 9) to Jesus' actions in Mark 5?
 - What is the significance of this connection?
 3. **READ Luke 9:10-17.**
 - How many times does Jesus involve the disciples in feeding the crowd?
 - How are the disciples' needs met in the process?
 - Why do you think that Jesus involves the disciples when he could have done this act without them?
 - Read Acts 6:1-7.
 - Do you think that the feeding miracle had an impact on how the disciples handled the need in this story? Why or why not?
 - What lesson is there for us in this comparison?
 4. Our church's new vision statement says, "We will make disciples of Jesus in the communities where we work and live, who will make disciples, locally and internationally. To do so, we will: In community with each other, follow Jesus by learning from him, growing in him, and **serving with him**." The passages in Luke 9-10 show us that serving with Jesus in his mission involves the following aspects. Discuss each one as prompted.

- ***Going intentionally into relationships with people who need Jesus***
 - What evidence do you see of this practice in the passages?
 - To what degree do you have below-the-surface relationships with people outside the church?
 - Who is someone in your sphere with whom you could be intentional about deepening a relationship? How might you show care and concern for that person?
- ***Bringing the good news of the kingdom***
 - We'll discuss this point more next week, but for now: to what degree do you see yourself as responsible for bringing the good news of God's kingdom in Christ to the people in your spheres?
 - How have you seen this happen successfully in your experience?
 - What keeps you from doing this?
- ***Mending God's broken world***
 - What forms does this aspect of Jesus' mission take in the Luke narratives?
 - What needs do you see in your sphere or our community, which need to be mended in the name of Jesus?
 - How do you think God might be prompting you or our group to meet those needs?
 - What difference is there between "serving *for* Jesus" and "serving *with* Jesus?" Why does this difference matter?

PRAYER:

- Pray for the needs or ideas that have come up. Pray that God will reveal to your group and our church the needs that he is calling us to meet in our community.
- Take time also to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.