

WARM-UP

- What do you think makes a person ordinary? Give two to three examples from daily life.
- Would you say you follow instructions well? Recall an instance explaining this.
- Tell us about your greatest accomplishment as a team in the last twelve months. How did you get it done and how did it feel after?

WORD *¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* **LUKE 10:1-2**

(Read also **LUKE 10:3-21.**)

Following Jesus is not easy because it takes everything we have, because we don't follow Him alone, and because it should not stop with us. Jesus sent His disciples to proclaim the good news of the kingdom to anyone willing to listen. The world was never the same because of this, and today the task remains to be fulfilled by the Church. While we are called to love our church community or people of the same faith, we are also designed to build relationships with those who have yet to encounter Jesus. Today, we will look at who God calls, what He calls us to, and what He promises as we follow Him and fish for men.

1 | God calls ordinary people.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. LUKE 10:1

The twelve disciples and the seventy-two Jesus sent out were ordinary people. They did not have great credentials or religious superiority. In fact, the seventy-two remained unnamed in the Bible. Yet, still, Jesus called them to preach, heal the sick, and cast out demons. This is a relief. We don't need to be extraordinary to follow God. We ordinary people are called to pray for others, preach the gospel, and serve God in community. How do you think the seventy-two felt as they went to different places two by two?

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2 | God calls ordinary people to an extraordinary task.

²And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. . . . ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" LUKE 10:2-3, 8-9

Jesus sent those ordinary unnamed followers to proclaim His kingdom to those in different towns and cities. They faced some who did not receive them, but then they also experienced many people coming to know God. They proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom of God and confirmed their message by meeting the needs of the people with miracles from God. In Mark 16:15–18, why do you think Jesus promised that the extraordinary task of proclaiming the gospel would be accompanied by miraculous signs?

In the same way the disciples were called to declare and demonstrate the gospel of His kingdom, God invites us to participate in this extraordinary task. As we do so, many more people would turn to God and, thus, bring joy to Him. We can give thanks to God knowing that preaching His word will lead to our ultimate joy—our *“names are written in heaven”* (Luke 10:20)—that is a new citizenship in God’s kingdom.

APPLICATION

- How do you react to the idea of telling people about Jesus? What makes you do it anyway?
- Why do you think Jesus sent His disciples out two by two with those instructions? What do you think His instructions would be to your Victory group today?
- This week, as we study, work, or go about our daily lives, pray that God would lead us to people He intends us to be a blessing to, so that they may be open to hear the gospel and come to the saving knowledge of Christ.

