



The Gospel of Luke

Week 9 **LEADER** Discussion Questions

Week of 10/23/22

Text: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20, 25-37

NOTE: As you've likely realized by now, the sermons across our campuses are not always in sync in this series! The questions attempt to account for this, but often fall short of aligning as closely with each sermon as we'd like. This week, it's possible that what you hear on Sunday will only fit some of the questions below.

You are always free to modify the questions to better suit what you heard in the sermon. Likewise, you can also choose to read and then cover questions in your group that were not part of the sermon you heard. The questions below are intended to be a resource or guide, not a script.

Icebreaker: If you're going on a trip, are you someone who tends to overpack or do you like to travel lightly? Give an example if you can.

This is meant to relate to the sending of the 72 who are instructed by Jesus to travel very lightly!

1. From verses 1-12, what is Jesus's purpose for appointing the 72 and sending them out? What's the mission for these "laborers?"

Jesus is sending them "ahead of him" (v. 1) to prepare for his own visit. They are to find a place to stay where they are welcomed and then go about healing the sick and proclaiming that God's kingdom has come near (v. 9). On the flip side, if a town refuses to welcome them, they are to proclaim that in spite of their rejection of it, the kingdom has still come near (vv. 10-11).

Application: Do you see an overlap or similarity between what these 72 were called to do and what we are called to do today? Why or why not?

This isn't the only instance where Jesus sends out his disciples, nor are the instructions always the same as far as what to bring with them. A consistent theme, though, is the demonstration and declaration of God's coming kingdom (see Matt 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8). Like these 72, we too are called to go "ahead" of Jesus to prepare for his coming. We can expect as well that the type of reception we receive from others when we come in Jesus's name will be consistent with the type of encounter that will happen when Jesus returns.

2. How would you describe the kind of mindset or attitude Jesus describes for the 72 as they go out?

They are to go with a complete dependence on "the Lord of the harvest" as they pray for laborers and proceed with very few resources or possessions. They are to be gentle even though they are operating in dangerous places (v. 3). Even so, they move forward as kingdom emissaries, knowing that their labor is preparing the way for the arrival of the King.

Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others.

Application: What might it look like for us today to have a similar attitude? If you're able, think of an example of what it could look like for us to live this out.

If we take this seriously, we should be able to appreciate how difficult it is to engage in work that makes us vulnerable (like lambs) or exposed, yet with a message and power that is supernatural. Most of us don't feel comfortable being completely dependent on the good will of others, including God(!), to provide for our needs. The importance of the mission and the trustworthiness of God, though, is what moves us to action. In our world, this could take on a lot of different forms. It could range from doing missions work in places that are a higher risk to our personal safety, to witnessing to coworkers or neighbors who may reject the message we hope they would receive.

3. Look at the incredible descriptions of the 72's "Jesus-enabled" success in verses 17-20! Of it all, what are they supposed to celebrate most? Why do you think Jesus says this?

They are to rejoice "that your names are written in heaven." There are at least a couple reasons why this could be so. First off, the authority over physical or spiritual threats is temporary. Physically, these 72 will one day die and the devil and his demons will one day no longer pose any threat (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:9-10). Additionally, the fact that their names are written in heaven points to the ultimate basis or source of their security and authority since heaven is the domain of the God who grants this authority and power.

Application: What could we do over this next week to live with a better awareness that "our names are written in heaven?"

This is intended to help us think about how we can be more mindful of the gospel during the distractions of ordinary life. Maybe we could devote longer periods of time or more frequent periods of time to reading Scripture and prayer. Maybe we could commit to sending each other a text mid-week with an encouraging reminder of our citizenship in heaven.

4. What does the lawyer in verse 25 seem to be assuming about how one can have eternal life?

He wants to know what he can "do," as though eternal life can be acquired through actions or achievements.

Application: If someone asked you the same question, how would you answer?

Our first response might be, "I'd say exactly what Jesus says here!" We may want to rethink that, though, since we have the perspective of the cross, resurrection, and ascension to guide our response. We would certainly want to express the difference between "doing" things to try to earn our way to eternal life, and instead trusting in the grace of God that has done for us what we can never acquire on our own. This is the gospel message.

5. This one requires a bit of thought, but how do you think the parable could be retold today to communicate a similar kind of radical idea about a true neighbor?

A starting point might be to think of groups of people our culture tends to look down on, or even despise, because that's who the Samaritans were to the Jews.

Application: Jesus told the man, "You go, and do likewise." Have you ever had a time where someone was a "neighbor" like this to you...or where you were to someone else? What happened?