

"Mission's Sunday 2010" Luke 9:51-10:24

CONNECTING

1. Welcome and opening prayer.
2. Introduce any guests.
3. Tell about a major commitment you have made in life (buying a car or house; college education; cross-country move; military service; marriage; having a child; starting a business, etc). Describe any of the costs, sacrifice, or rewards.



LOVING ONE ANOTHER (Deepening Spiritual Growth)



Cost? Pain? Sacrifice? These elements don't fit into the American way of life of avoiding discomfort and inconvenience. Instant gratification is the order of the day. No goal could be further from Jesus' way of life for his disciples while here on earth.

1. What has been costly for you in following Jesus?
2. Read Luke 9:51-62, which begins Jesus' final, year-long journey to Jerusalem. What impressions of Jesus do the opening statements (Luke 9:51-53) leave with you?
3. In the Samaritan incident, what is apparently behind Jesus' rebuke of his loyal disciples?
4. In Luke 9:56-62 Jesus interviews three would-be disciples. Each encounter reveals the person's inadequate understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. What issues are at stake for each of these people?
5. From Jesus' response to each what do you learn about some specific costs of discipleship in his kingdom?
6. Read Luke 10:1-24, which sounds like the mission in Luke 9. But how is this mission of the seventy-two different from the mission of the Twelve in Luke 9:1-6?
7. Jesus' every instruction reveals a deep sense of urgency. How does a Christian develop an urgency for mission and evangelism?

8. Luke 10:17-24 records a post-mission report and evaluation. Of course celebration is in order! For Jesus the success of the seventy-two is a preview of the ultimate overthrow of Satan. But as one of them, how would you have felt on hearing Jesus' words in Luke 10:20?

What seems to be his aim in this caution?

9. Jesus is elated! What other reasons for elation does he express to his Father and then to his disciples (Luke 10:21-24)?

10. Jesus' demands in discipleship and mission are indeed serious (Luke 9:57-62; Luke 10:2-12). But he accompanies them with positive appeals-explicit and implicit (Luke 9:60b, 62b; Luke 10:2, 16, 18-24). Which of his appeals inspires you to pursue discipleship on his terms?

SEEKING GOD (Drawing Near to God)



1. Conversational prayer is a very effective way to pray in a small group. It is a prayer that unites people in conversation with God and with each other. Like normal conversations, anyone can speak (pray) as many times as they wish and several people will often pray in agreement for the same request. (Begin your time by praising God for who He is and what He has done.)
2. Consider praying an application prayer, "Lord, help me to do _____(what you have show me during this study)?"

SHARING CHRIST (Declaring the Good News)



1. During the past month, how have you sought to build relationships with those on your Prayer, Care and Share in order to direct them toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. What activities might we do as a group or with another ministry of our church in order to reach out to our unsaved friends?

SERVING OTHERS (Demonstrating God's Love)



1. God has called us to serve one another within the church and together to serve those within the community. What effect does it have when Christians demonstrate God's love through simple but tangible acts of service to those who do not yet know Jesus Christ personally?
 - o Volunteer for 2nd Harvest Food Distribution, the fourth Friday of each month. Call Dean Van Der Werf 763-561-0146, derwerf@comcast.net or sign-up online www.brooklynparkchurch.org/2harvest.