

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

Sunday Club at Home (14 June 2020)

1. Gather

Encourage everyone to move in different ways e.g. run, hop, skip around the room. Each time everyone returns to the start, ask them to shout:

The kingdom of God is near.

Where is the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is near.

Amen.

You may wish to play a song during this time of prayer, such as “Get Up and Dance” by Hillsong Kids.

2. Read the Word

Context

There are lots of things which might make us feel uncomfortable in this passage as Jesus calls and commissions his disciples in a challenging situation. But despite the challenge, it is good news that they are sent out to share. As Christians we are called to mirror Jesus and the disciples, to ‘go out’ into the world. While we may not be able to ‘go out’ in the same way there are many ways that we can share the good news with others. But this passage reminds us that we don’t do that in our own strength. When we do not have the words to say, the same Spirit of the Father that spoke to the disciples can speak to and through us.

Story (Matthew chapters 9 and 10): Jesus’ friends go out to share all that he has taught them with the world.



Jesus gathered his twelve disciples and sent them out.

He gave them these instructions:

‘Don’t go to Gentile or Samaritan towns. Instead go to the people of Israel, for they are like a flock of lost sheep. Tell people the good news about the kingdom of heaven. Cure the sick, raise the dead, heal those with skin diseases, send out demons. You have been given all this freely, for no payment. Now you must help others without being paid.’

Jesus reassured them, ‘You won’t need gold or silver; don’t take a travelling bag or an extra shirt; don’t take sandals or a walking stick. When you go into a town, find out who the good

people are and stay with them until you are ready to leave. If you enter a home, bless it with your peace, but if it is not worthy, take the blessing back. If someone doesn't welcome you or they won't listen, leave at once, shaking the dust from your feet.

'I am sending you out like sheep into a pack of wolves,' he said, 'so you need to be as wise as a snake and as innocent as a dove. Because of me people will hand you over to those in power and have you beaten. You will be dragged before kings and leaders. But if this happens, don't worry about what to say – you will be given the words at the time. It will be God's Spirit speaking.

'Because of me there will be unrest in families,' Jesus said sadly. 'Brothers will turn against brothers. Fathers will turn against children. Children will turn against parents. Many will be hated because of me. But if you remain with me until the end you will be saved. If they persecute you in one town, run to the next. I promise that before you have been to all the towns of Israel, the Son of Man will come.'

Glossary

- **Gentile** the name Jews give to non-Jews
- **Samaritan** a person who lived in Samaria and worshipped God differently from Jews. Jews and Samaritans hated each other
- **Demons** spiritual forces that trouble people – could be interpreted as mental illness
- **Son of Man** a title from the Old Testament Book of Daniel, used by Jesus to describe himself

3. Explore the Story

Reflect with children

- What was Jesus sending the disciples out to do?
- Have you ever had to do something that was very hard or that tested you?
- Jesus sent the disciples out to do his work without getting paid for it. What sort of things do volunteers do today?

Reflect with young people

- What have the disciples experienced and seen Jesus do?
- What is important about what Jesus said and did before he sent the disciples out?
- Why was it vital to the future Church that Jesus sent the disciples out? How does this affect our Christian life today?

4. Play

Shepherd qualities

Print or write out a list of characteristics (below). Scatter the phrases around your space. Ask everyone to search out the words and gather them together. Encourage them to sort the words, thinking about 'What makes a good shepherd?' Place the words under three headings: 'Needs to be', 'Not needed', 'Can't be'.

Discuss the decisions the group have made. Were there any that they couldn't agree on?

Character traits

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| loud | rugged |
| good at maths | dependable |
| a good friend | fit |
| quiet | loyal |
| confident | scared of the dark |
| good communicator | likes a daily shower |
| strong | sensitive hands |
| brave | squeamish |
| likes animals | rich |
| sacrificial | |

5. Pray

Finish by praying together:

Father of all, you send us out to bring:

Good news!

Jesus, you promise us protection

Good news!

Thank you for sending us the Spirit to help us when we pray

Good news!

Thank you for trusting us with the important work of sharing your

Good news!

Amen.

More activities for the week

Paint blowing

Give each person a piece of thin card, some watered-down poster paint and a paper straw. Ask everyone to place some paint at the base of the card and then blow the paint through the straw. Talk about the way the paint spreads out, like the disciples being sent out, and how the air is like the Holy Spirit.

Live your faith actions

Every time you go through a doorway this week, think about being sent out by Jesus to share the good news – who could you share some good news with?