

Discussion Guide:

When Jesus Expands His Team

Passage: Luke 10:1-24

Summary: What happens when Jesus sends seventy-two of His followers on a trip and empowers them to do the kind of things He had been doing? They do some incredible things with incredible power. Yet, Jesus tells them they're blessed not because of this incredible experience, but because they have seen Him. In the Kingdom of God, where God's people have incredible power...they're most excited that they get to see Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Jesus doesn't look with pessimism at a suffering, divided, dark 1st century world...He sees a harvest ripe for being gathered. Do you see the world around you the way Jesus sees it? If not, how do you view this world?
- 2. Jesus sends the 72 disciples with power and a mission to help gather in His people by going before Him to announce the arrival of His Kingdom. He instructs them to go without anything extra (dependence), to be focused, and to announce peace as they enter homes and towns. When they are received, the are to proclaim the kingdom and heal the sick (words and actions). While our mission is not 1:1 the same as theirs, we can still learn from Jesus' instructions. What can we take away as we think about how we carry out our mission?
- 3. Jesus confirms that when they proclaimed the kingdom and the demons obeyed them, it was a preview of Satan's crumbling kingdom. Jesus had given them incredible power and the enemy's days were numbered...his defeat having already begun. This was possible because they had real power from Him. Do you realize the power you have? You may not be called to do the same things the 72 were called to do, but you have the same Spirit empowering you. How does that change how you think about yourself and the mission God has given you?

4. Jesus invites them to rejoice not because of the power they had or the great things they were doing, but because their "names were written in heaven." They could be filled with joy because they were "infants" who the Father had chosen to reveal Himself to through Jesus and they were secure and loved by God. What fills you with more joy and excitement? Doing amazing things? OR knowing you are a loved child of God? Why do you think that is?

Take time to pray for one another and ask Jesus to help you follow Him.