

Call to action: 14-20 June 2020

Bible time  **Matthew 9.35–10.8, (9-23)**

Jesus' friends go out to share all that he has taught them with the world.

Life today

Think about the things you'd want to take with you if you set out on a mission like this today. Jesus tells his friends that they won't be needing anything, and yet he talks about how difficult the journey will be. As you read the passage, have a think about how you would have felt if you were one of the disciples.

Read the story together then explore it using these questions.

Question time

- What things are important enough to you to take everywhere?
- How would you feel if you couldn't take them?
- Could you do what Jesus is asking here? What would help you?

Activity time

• Close contact

Most of us see other people every day. Sometimes this is face to face, more recently on the phone or as a video call. I wonder how often we are able to share Jesus with those we spend time with. Think about a friend or family member who doesn't know Jesus. What would you like them to know? Write a letter to that person. The aim is not to send it (although you can if you feel it's right), but rather to get down the message you'd love them to hear.

• Contact circles

Sit down as a household with a big sheet of paper and some marker pens. Draw a circle in the centre and put your names inside. Add a bigger circle around the first and the names of people who are frequently in and out of your lives: family members or close friends. Draw another bigger circle and think about other people who you see regularly – teachers, classmates, co-workers. Draw another circle and add the names of those who are less familiar. Look at all the names, and talk about how it would be possible to show different people who Jesus is.

• Helping hands

Draw around your hand. On each finger, write the name of someone who you'd like to know Jesus.

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.'

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.

Put the handprint beside your bed, and each day when you wake up or before you go to sleep, talk to God about those people.

Prayer time

Paint the bottom of your feet and print them onto paper. When the footprints are dry, cut them out and stick them somewhere you'll see them often. Each time you catch sight of the footprints, ask Jesus where he would like you to share his message.