

# The Mission of Jesus' 72 Disciples

## 1 Explore It!

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town.

The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power 'to tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

In today's Gospel, Jesus sends 72 disciples out on a mission ahead of Himself to every town He would be visiting. These disciples went ahead in pairs - laborers for the coming harvest. He instructs these disciples to carry nothing with them, but to bring peace to any home that welcomes them, and leave any home that does not welcome them. In each town, the disciples would cure the sick, drive out demons, and prepare the Kingdom of God.

Upon returning to Jesus, the disciples are excited to share their stories of driving out demons in His name. Jesus tells them they should not be excited that they could drive out demons, but rather be glad that they, as laborers of His harvest, would have their names in Heaven. As His disciples, Jesus gives them the power to "tread upon serpents," and no harm would come to them.



## 2 Connect It!

What does it take to be a disciple of Christ? Are there any prerequisites needed? Absolutely not! It does not matter if you are rich or poor, educated or intellectual, outspoken or even articulate. We all have a mission to go out into the world and be disciples of Christ. But know that Christ does not send us out into the world all alone, but rather with our friends and our Church. Being a disciple of Christ does not necessarily mean we go door to door evangelizing the Good News each day. Instead, use the gifts that God has given you to share with those around you. Live your life spreading love, kindness, and positivity to those around you. That is the mission of the disciple of Christ.

St. Teresa of Avila once wrote: "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

## 4 Remember It!

*"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."*  
(Luke 10:2)

## 3 Reflect It!

In his final message at World Youth Day in 2013, Pope Francis gives the youth of the world this mission: "Go, do not be afraid, and serve." If you yourself have ever encountered Christ, then it is your mission to share that encounter with those around you. This is the challenge for us all to be disciples.

Are you a true disciple of Christ? A true Christian walks with purpose and direction, living a life for Christ. What are the gifts that God has given you? Think about one gift that you feel can help those around you. What is that gift? How can you use that gift to bring others closer to God?

## 5 Live It!

### [PURPOSEFULNESS]

To be purposeful is to have a mission  
with a clear focus

Many times we start with a vision of what you want to accomplish, make a plan, and then reach small goals at a time until you complete your mission. God has a plan for you, but you cannot just sit there and wait for His plans to unfold, but rather, make things happen! This week, think about a small need in your community - maybe cleaning up the park, serving food at the homeless shelter, helping around the church office, or maybe doing extra chores at home - and be that change!

## 6 Pray It!

Dear Jesus, teach us to be Your hands and feet. Give us the courage and strength to be Your disciples - to be fearless as we spread the Good News to the world. Amen.