

Good News in Action

Leader notes:

- This should be the **third study** in the “Life on Mission” series.
- The following goal is intended to help you as a leader know where the study is going, it is not part of the group study itself.
- Go through the study and pick a key question or two for each section ahead of time.
- Scholars often talk about Jesus’ mighty deeds (miracles and exorcisms) as living parables of the Kingdom. In other words, Jesus’ mighty deeds give us a living picture of what his Kingdom is about. His kingdom sets people free, enables them to see, enables them to run, makes them whole again, etc. Jesus then invites his disciples to also do powerful deeds that are also pictures of his Kingdom. This study is all about the ways we too can carry out actions that embody and enact Jesus’ good Kingdom.

Goals:

- To understand that Jesus’ Kingdom is something we enact as well as announce. In other words, we work for the Kingdom through our actions.
- To see the ways Jesus enacted the Kingdom of God with actions. To consider what it means for us to follow him in that.

Hook

- What is a time in your life when you have been sick or injured and someone took great care of you?
- Who has embodied compassion towards you in your life?

Book

- Read Matthew 9:35 - 10:8
 - What emotion was Jesus motivated by in this passage?
 - What was Jesus’ response to this emotion?
 - How does Jesus answer his own prayer by sending the disciples out?
 - What are the things Jesus was doing in 9:35?
 - How does this align with the ability Jesus gives in 10:1 and the instructions in 10:7 - 8?
 - Describe the recipients of Jesus’ and the disciples’ actions. What do you know about them?
 - What do you think is the connection between Jesus and the disciples announcing God’s Kingdom and then doing these actions?
 - Why are the actions important?
 - What if they just announced God’s Kingdom without any actions?

Look

NOTE - As we begin looking at what this Scripture means for us today it could be easy to get hung up on questions like “what about miracles and demons today?” These are good and important questions, but for today’s purposes let’s talk about any of the ways we can show compassion, care for the sick, bring hope to the dying, and pray against spiritual darkness in people’s lives, whether ordinary or extraordinary.

- Share a time in which someone has changed your life through demonstrating the good news of Jesus towards you?
 - How has that changed your relationship with Christ?
- Are there parts of our society or the world that seem to be unreached by God's mercy? What do you think needs to happen to change this?
- Take a moment and close your eyes and imagine what it would mean for the Kingdom of God to arrive in Bellingham. What does this look like? Who is bringing the Kingdom? What are they doing?
- Have you ever had someone do lots of "good deeds" towards you, but not felt loved by them? Why or why not?
- Share about a time when you really felt like you were enacting the Kingdom of God in someone's life. What were you doing? Why do you think you felt on mission in that moment?"

Took

- Who are the people in your life Jesus has given you compassion for? Who are those you feel drawn to care for?
- Where do you feel sent by Jesus to care for those who are sick or grieving or in darkness?
- Jesus sent his disciples out to very specific people with very specific instructions on how to demonstrate the goodness of his Kingdom. If Jesus were to give you similar instructions, where would he send you and what would he ask you to do? Write it out and share it with your group.

Pray