



# WEEK 3

# STUDY GUIDE

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# Monday, November 21, 2022

**Read:** Luke 10:1-16

**Scripture Verse:** *“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.” Luke 10:1*

## Today's Thought:

Don't you know that we live in a troubled and upset world? A world currently experiencing many wars, uncertainties and natural disasters such as earthquakes, Tsunamis, floods, hurricanes. Seeing all that is happening in the world today, it is obvious that we are not far from the great day of the Lord, “The rapture of the church.” It is time to open our eyes wide to see that the harvest is ripe, and we must be ready to harvest it. Jesus himself said, “Don't you have a saying, ' It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” (John 4:35) With so many people in need of salvation, now is the time to seek out lost souls for God.

The purpose of these studies is to encourage you to use the method that is right for you to accomplish your noble mission of winning lost souls for Christ.

Jesus, before ascending back to his Father, took the time to teach his words to his disciples. He gave them the necessary tools for the work of evangelism. Why? He knew well that his earthly mission was going to end and that the work had to continue. For this, he called his disciples in order to continue the mission after his rapture. His mission was “To save lost souls.” We read in Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

To accomplish this mission, he even gave his own life as a ransom. He showed true love for humanity by giving his own life to reconcile us with God. Relationship that was interrupted after the sin of our grandparents, Adam and Eve. God saw fit to send us Jesus Christ to save us from the curse of sin that made us ugly before him. After the disciples' training, he chose seventy-two for the mission. He sent them himself. He sent them two by two.

An important aspect of this mission is that he sent them two by two. What does that mean? It makes us understand the importance of being together. Jesus did not call us to live the Christian life alone as an island,

nor to work alone. When we are together, we become stronger, and we can feel the solidarity that reigns around us and the presence of God in our midst. For the Bible tells us: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20. This is convincing proof that Jesus was with his disciples in the mission he had entrusted to them. He taught the disciples that they must not go alone, because together they can support each other, they can encourage each other on the way.

Jesus calls us to walk together, to support each other. This is how we will succeed in the mission Jesus entrusted to us. As a disciple of Jesus, fulfilling the mission of winning souls for Christ is not the work of one man, it is the work of all saved Christians. The Christian is not called to live his life alone, he must associate with other Christians because in Jesus Christ we are one body. "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, through many, form one body, and each member belongs to all others." Romans 12:4-5. Because in Christ we were all baptized by one Spirit to form one body to accomplish the work of God. The problem of one must be the problem of the other, the progress of one must be the progress of the other. Jesus instructed his disciples to go and tell the towns and villages what they had seen, heard and experienced. Jesus sent them to bring the Good News to others like a lamb among wolves. They had to rely only on him and on the power of his word.

Brothers and sisters, you are one of the seventy-two whom Jesus has appointed for the work of evangelism. Today, Jesus commands you to take his message of hope, of love, of forgiveness and salvation to everyone in your neighborhood, in your city, in every country to make disciples for him. Jesus is crying out today, "Who shall I send? Who will go for me?" He expects this answer from you: "Here I am, my Lord. Send me!"

Lord Jesus, as the Father has sent you, you too are sending me to rescue lost souls. Help me to take seriously this noble mission that you have entrusted to me. Help me bring the message of hope, of love, of forgiveness and salvation to everyone in my neighborhood, in my city, in every country.

- What does Jesus do before his rapture?
- What was Jesus' mission?
- What was the mission of the seventy-two?
- What is our mission today?

**Further Reading:** Isaiah 6:1-9

## Tuesday, November 22, 2022

**Read:** John 5:1-11

**Scripture Verse:** *"He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest." Luke 10:2*

### Today's Thought:

Have you ever looked over the cornfields while driving down the road? Or have you ever stopped somewhere by the side of the road to observe the fields? I love doing it! Being from the countryside, I accompanied my father to the garden to plant corn, rice, and beans. Since there was no high technology in my country, my father had to mobilize a lot of people to clean the fields and sow the seeds. It took him time and money to make the garden. At harvest time, he was forced to use the same process as there was no advanced technology to help him harvest the crop. To be honest, I was lazy in that way. I didn't like gardening. Forced by my father, I was obliged to accompany him.

The most harmful aspect of all this is working under a tropical sun, there were also insect bites, weeds scratching and stinging me. Sometimes I was carried away by discouragement, so I let my father go to the fields alone. Sometimes I would say to him, "Why don't you hire people to do this job? Me! I'm fed up! He would often say to me, "I don't have enough money to pay people for the work. It's our business!" In short!

The world is God's field. We are all workers in God's field. Every soul is very important to God. We have seen that Jesus chose seventy-two to send into the world with the mission to announce to the people the good news of salvation. The disciples did not apologize to the Lord of the harvest. They were available and had the desire to go and do the work of the master. They considered themselves as slaves of the master and they put themselves at the service of their Lord. Not only did they put themselves at the service of their master, but they also had the same desire as their Lord, "The Burden of Lost Souls." They did not see the conquest of souls as a service that they were going to render to the master, but they considered it their own business.

I had not considered working in my father's fields as in my own fields; it was a service rendered to my dad. Very often we have this attitude. We consider the work that God has entrusted to us as a service rendered to God, as a service rendered to pastors and to the church. Sometimes

we don't see the salvation of others as a favor, as an opportunity God gives us to work alongside Him. He could leave the charge to the angels, he could use someone else, but if he chose us, it is our responsibility to take the job very seriously. No way to say it's the job of pastors, it's the job of evangelists, I'm not well equipped for such work. It's an excuse! You can invite a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker to accompany you to hear the word of God. There are people who are ready to accompany you to church, they are only waiting for your invitation. Look around you, look at everything that is happening in the world, don't you realize that the harvest is ready? What are you waiting for? Don't you know that there is joy in heaven because of a soul you bring to the Lord?

Lord Jesus, thank you for your word. Thank you for opening my eyes to my mission. You saved me to serve others; help me get involved in your field. Reveal to me a list of people whom I must invite to hear your word for the salvation of their souls.

- Who is the field of God?
- How did the disciples perceive the field of God?
- How do you perceive the field of God?
- What excuses do some people most often use for not engaging in evangelism?
- According to this study, what's the easiest way you can imagine using to invite people to hear the Word of God?

**Further Reading:** Mark 16:15-16

## **Wednesday, November 23, 2022**

**Read:** Luke 10:1-16

**Scripture Verse:** *“Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.” Luke 10: 3-4*

### **Today’s Thought:**

In verse 3, Jesus says that he sends the seventy-two like a lamb among wolves. Jesus used this metaphor to show the peace aspect of their mission. The lamb is a harmless animal. We can say that the lamb is related to peace. Remember what John the Baptist said to his disciples when he saw Jesus coming from afar: “Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.” The Jews understood the concept of the lamb very well. Lamb sacrifices played a major role in their religious life and in their sacrificial system. They knew well that the lamb was intended for the sacrifice. When John the Baptist spoke of this, it is as if he were saying, here is the one who is destined for the butchery, the one who is going to be crucified, the ultimate sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The One through whom we will have peace with God.

In sending his disciples, Jesus said “I am sending you out like lambs among wolves,” implying that anything can happen to their life. On a farm, no one will dare place wolves among the sheep. You know very well what will happen with the sheep. Wolves are not nice to lambs. This implies that the disciples will encounter difficulties in fulfilling their mission in the world. The task was not so easy. They will have to face the bad guys, people who are there for the fight. Despite everything, they must behave like lambs because they are agents of peace. They will be persecuted, but they will not be abandoned. He who sent them is with them from beginning to end. Therefore, in verse 4, they were to make no provision; Jesus being always with them, they were under his protection. They should not greet anyone on the way, because the management of their time was very valuable for the mission.

In some Eastern countries, if you are in a hurry, if you have a very big mission to accomplish, you must limit the greetings on the way. In some of these countries, a greeting was a whole litany because of the ceremonies which accompanied it. To better accomplish their mission, disciples must get rid of all troubles and all that is too much. They had to focus on their mission of peace, love and salvation. They were to bring peace to the houses they would enter.

My brothers and sisters, the same mission is entrusted to us. We must take our mission to heart. We can face all kinds of problems, such as: malicious people, contempt, verbal attacks and all kinds. We must minimize them, we must avoid any direct or indirect confrontation, because Christ sent us to preach a message of peace and love, not war. If Christ has chosen you, if he sends you, he has already provided you with what is necessary. Rest assured; you are not alone in the mission! If he was with those who preceded us, he is also with us. For he said in his Word, "I am with you always, to the end of the world."

Lord, thank you for choosing me from this world for your work in the world. I know that in accomplishing my mission, I will face contempt, humiliation and misunderstanding. Help me to bear all with courage and help me to remember that I am not alone in the mission, and that you are with me, I have nothing to fear.

- What metaphor did Jesus use when he sent his disciples on a mission trip?
- What was his promise to them?
- What is our mission?
- What should be our attitude to potential problems in our work for God?

**Further Reading:** Matthew 10:16–20

## Thursday, November 24, 2022

**Read:** Luke 10:1-16

**Scripture Verse:** *"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you."* Luke 10:5-6

### Today's Thought:

We have often spoken of peace in the world. Peace in the world is a very beautiful ideal. To have peace in the world, many Organizations have arisen. One of the most recognized organizations in the field of peace is: the United Nations Organization. Created in 1945, in the aftermath of a devastating Second World War, the United Nations was endowed by its founding members with one priority objective: The maintenance of peace and security. According to them, their activities mainly cover the areas of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and enforcement action. Also, according to them, the Security Council has primary jurisdiction to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or an act of aggression. He invites the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends the methods of adjustment and the terms of settlement that he deems appropriate. In some cases, it can impose sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. These are in part the UN peace processes.

Despite the existence of such large organizations, there are still wars and threats of wars all over the world. At no time in history, in the eyes of the United Nations, has the world been free from armed conflict in one place or another. We keep seeing global wars between nations. Despite all the efforts of the organizations, to fight for peace in the world by imposing sanctions, by using force of arms, the world will never be able to have peace. We are not saying peace organizations have totally failed in their mission, but they are not using the most effective and efficient weapon to have peace in the world.

Our Lord Jesus Christ called seventy-two of his disciples for a mission of peace. He sent his disciples to preach true peace, tolerance, love and sharing. Therefore, he declares, "I give you peace, I give it to you not as the world gives it." John 14:27. The peace the world gives is paradoxically opposed to the peace God gives. Peace in the world is based on the balance of power, on nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles and others;

while the peace that God gives us is based on love of neighbor and enemies. "Love your enemies, do not return evil for evil". There will be no peace in the world until it knows Jesus Christ, the Son of God as its Savior. There will be peace in the world when every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Philippians 2:9-11).

My brothers and sisters, Jesus gives us a mission of peace. We must live in peace with everyone and seek it where it does not exist. For the Bible tells us to seek peace with everyone. The kingdom of God is not a kingdom of war, it is a kingdom of peace. For this, we must preach peace and live that peace amidst unbelievers. So, the way we live our life will bring them to Christ. We must be agents of peace wherever we find ourselves. Our main responsibility is to announce to others their need for Jesus, who alone can bring peace of mind and peace between them and their creator. Jesus wants us to be a peacemaker, peace-keeper and peacebuilder. Therefore, let us work and fight for peace and reconciliation between God and men in his Son Jesus Christ. So be it for you and for me!

Lord, help me to be an agent of peace and evangelism. St Francis of Assisi said in his prayer: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred let me put love. Where there is injury, let me sow forgiveness. Where there is discord, let me put union. Where there is error, I may bring truth. Where is doubt, let me put faith. Where there is despair, let me put hope. Where the darkness is, let me bring light. Where is sadness, let me put joy."

- What is the priority objective of the United Nations?
- What methods do they use to maintain peace in the world?
- Is there peace in the world through these peace treaties?
- Who can bring peace to the world?
- What is this message of peace that we too must bring to the world?
- On what condition can there be peace in this world?

**Further Reading:** Colossians 4:8-9

## Friday, November 25, 2022

**Read:** Luke 10:1-16

**Scripture Verse:** *"Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me." Luke 10:16*

### Today's Thought:

We have seen that the mission of the disciples is to announce to others their need for Jesus, who alone can bring peace of mind and peace between them and their creator. For us too, time is running out and we must seize the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ wherever we are. That doesn't mean everything will be fine. We may encounter difficulties in spreading the gospel of grace, love, and peace of Jesus Christ. A certain fact, the Lord will not abandon us in the work. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33. Sharing the gospel with someone is none of our business; it's God's business. What matters to us is to take the initiation to share the gospel of grace under the power of the Holy Spirit, either by inviting someone to accompany us to church, or by going door-to-door, in the way that suits us, and leaving the result to God, the master of the mission.

For accomplishing the mission, people may humiliate you, despise you, ridicule you and reject you. What you need to know is that they are not rejecting you, it is whoever sent you that they are ridiculing. Therefore, he says in verse 16, "He who listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me." If someone who has heard the gospel of grace rejects it, whether hearing it in church, on the airwaves (radio, television, social media) or from you, it's Jesus Christ and God himself that he rejects. Such a person is passive to the judgment of God. The Bible tells us that it is hard to fall under the judgment of God. So, Jesus strengthened his disciples in their mission by giving them these instructions: "Whoever listens to my message through you, listens to me.

Whoever rejects you, rejects me and rejects God, for I am of God." He who rejects God, rejects him for his own judgment.

My brothers and sisters, we are nearing the end of probation. Therefore, "Do your best to present yourselves to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word

of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

We are the light of the world, let our light shine in this world of darkness. For each passing day brings man either to eternal bliss or to eternal judgment. It's up to us to choose!

Lord, help me to be a light in this dark world. Help me to take initiative to share the gospel of grace under the influence of the Holy Spirit by inviting someone to accompany me to church, or some other way, and leaving the result to you, the master of the mission. Use me powerfully in the accomplishment of your work.

- What did Jesus ask us to do?
- By sharing the word of God either by inviting someone or by proclaiming the word, if they reject you, who have they rejected?
- What will be the fate of those who reject Jesus?

**Further Reading:** Matthew 10:40-42

*"Today is Friday. As Saturday and Sunday are coming, prepare to meet your God. If you don't mind, don't forget to invite a friend with you."*







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