

FOLLOW ME

IN STEP WITH JESUS - THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

On Mission | Luke 10:1-24

December 9, 2007

1. When you read Luke 10, what are your immediate reactions to this story?
2. The central idea in this story is “the kingdom of God is near.” What does this mean?
Leader Hints:
In Old Testament times and in Jesus’ day, the people recognized God to be the king—in heaven, in control (see Psalm 103:19). And yet their hope was that he would demonstrate his kingship—on earth, in control—that God would show up on earth in all his glory, save his people from their sin and misery, defeat their enemies, and establish righteousness and peace. In the gospels Jesus announces that he is this king (see Luke 4:18-19); the kingdom of God is established in Jesus through his ministry; in other words, “near” really means “here.” Jesus’ idea of kingdom is present and future—something that started with his arrival and ministry and that will be fully established when he returns again. The kingdom is future (something to be anticipated), and the kingdom is present (something to be experienced).
3. What are some of the blessings of being part of the kingdom of God?
Leader Hints:
In Luke 10 reference is made to healing and to exorcising demons. These are blessings of the kingdom—no more pain and suffering, and the defeat of Satan and his “gang” (see the book of Revelation). Remember, there is “now” and “not yet.” The “not yet” is in the age to come when all the blessings of God’s kingdom will be fully realized. The “now” is this present age, and from time to time in God’s wisdom we see glimpses of these blessings. There are many other blessings as well—list some. [Note: Pastor Earl will be preaching a message on “signs and wonders” as part of a series on the book of Acts in early 2008.]
4. What is our message? What does “the kingdom of God is near” mean today? Suppose you are sitting down with someone at the coffee shop, and you are talking about Jesus—what are you saying?
Leader Hints:
The life you are living without Jesus can be radically different with Jesus. A relationship with Jesus is God’s rule in your life, and this is amazing—it is everything that you are truly longing for.
5. Share with each other who you believe the person is that God wants you to share your life and his message with? Be sure to remember these names during your prayer time tonight.
6. Rehearse what God wants us to do as followers of Jesus:
 - (a) See the potential—“the harvest is plentiful.” Do we really believe that?
 - (b) Pray that God would send followers into the harvest. Are we willing to pray that for ourselves—that God would send each of us into the harvest?
 - (c) Go! What does this look like on a practical level?