



**THE
DIRTY
DOZEN**

“THE DIRTY DOZEN” STUDY GUIDE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF JASPER | 09.26.2010 to 10.10.2010

LUKE 9:1-27; 57-62

SENDING OUT

Luke 9:1-9

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He told them: "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them." So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.



Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed, because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead, others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life. But Herod said, "I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?" And he tried to see him.

BIG IDEA

If we are Jesus' disciples, we are ambassadors proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

Open It

1. How much preparation and packing do you usually do before a trip?
2. How willing are most people to "pull up stakes" and move to unfamiliar surroundings?
3. How much are the people you know willing to believe in miracles?

Explore It

4. What happened after Jesus had called the twelve disciples together?
5. What authority was granted to the Twelve?
6. How did Jesus instruct the Twelve to proceed?
7. What were the disciples to do if a town would not welcome them?
8. What was the disciples' response to Jesus' instructions?
9. Who became aware of Jesus and the Twelve?
10. What did Herod think of Jesus' healing and preaching?
11. What were the various explanations of Jesus?
12. What resurrection images did Luke mention?
13. What basic question did Herod have about Jesus?
14. What did Herod want to do? Why?

Get It

15. How foreign to your thinking do Jesus' instructions to the Twelve seem?
16. How strange might Jesus' instructions have seemed to the Twelve?
17. Why do you suppose Jesus sent the Twelve out with so few provisions?
18. What sort of callings do we receive from God?
19. Who is preaching and healing under Jesus' authority in our day?
20. What do people in power usually think of Jesus? Why?
21. What callings from God are you aware of in your life?

Apply It

22. How can you prepare yourself this week for the future God has in mind for you?
23. How can you better take advantage of God's power and authority in your life?

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

Luke 9:10-17

When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.



Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here."

He replied, "You give them something to eat."

They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." (About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

BIG IDEA

God can do much with the little we faithfully bring.

Open It

1. In what situations do you really want to be alone?
2. How do people react when given an overwhelming responsibility?

Explore It

3. From where had the apostles returned?
4. What was the first thing the disciples did?
5. What did Jesus decide to do after the apostles had returned?
6. How did Jesus' plans change?
7. What did the apostles want to do with the crowd?
8. What did Jesus propose to do with the crowd?
9. What were the choices for feeding the crowds?
9. In what order of events did Jesus go about feeding the people?
10. How did the disciples help Jesus?
11. What were the results of Jesus' miracle?

Get It

13. If you had been an apostle, how would you have reacted to the crowd's overwhelming need?
14. What is surprising (and not surprising) to you about Jesus' response to the people's hunger?
15. What can we learn about Jesus' rapport with people from this account?
16. What can we learn about the abundance of God's provision from this passage?
17. What can we assume about the apostles' attitudes at the end of the story?
18. With what projects can your church or community group be involved to help people in need?

Apply It

19. What people in need living in your community can you take steps to help this month?
20. What can you do to increase your faith in God's miraculous powers?

WHOSE FAITH?

Luke 9:18-27; 57-62

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."



Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

...

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

BIG IDEA

Only a *personal* faith in Christ matters.

Open It

1. What are some of the roles you fill at home, work, and in your community?
2. When have you made a sacrifice for the sake of someone else?
3. In what do you take the most pride? Why?
4. About what sorts of things do you get enthusiastic?
5. When working on a group project, what excuses do people use to postpone or avoid fulfilling their obligations?

Explore It

6. What was Jesus doing when He was alone with His disciples?
7. What was Jesus' series of questions?
8. Who did the crowd think Jesus was?
9. Who spoke up when Jesus brought up the question of His identity?
10. What was Jesus' reaction to the statement by Peter?
11. What kind of future did Jesus predict for Himself?
12. How often is our allegiance to Christ demanded?
13. What are the conditions for discipleship with Jesus?
14. What kind of commitment does discipleship require?
15. What did Jesus say would happen to anyone who is ashamed of Him and His words?
16. With what prediction did Jesus conclude His admonition to the disciples?
17. Where were Jesus and His disciples when this story began?
18. To what lengths did the first man say he would follow Jesus?
19. What was Jesus' reply to the first man's statement of devotion?
20. In what way were foxes and birds of the air more secure than Jesus?
21. What did the second man want to do before following Jesus?
22. What was the second man to do instead of burying his father?
23. How did Jesus respond to the obligations of family life?
24. What did the third person want to do before following Jesus?
25. Who is not fit for the kingdom of God?
26. What imagery did Jesus evoke to examine the person's loyalties?

Get It

27. How would you answer Jesus today if He asked, "Who do crowds say I am?"
28. In what situations would you be uncomfortable stating plainly that Jesus is the Christ of God?
29. Why do you suppose that Jesus strictly warned His disciples not to tell anyone about His heavenly identity?
30. In what ways do we behave as if we are not to tell anybody who Jesus is?
31. What celebrities recently seem to have "gained the whole world" yet lost or forfeited their very selves?
32. In what ways can you lose your life for Jesus?

33. What might it feel like to have the Son of Man ashamed of us?
34. Given Jesus' replies to the three would-be followers, what do you suppose their conflicting loyalties were?
35. What did Jesus want the three men to do?
36. With which of these men do you most easily identify?
37. Why did Jesus encourage the one man to place such little value on family responsibilities?
38. What loyalties conflict with our allegiance to God?
39. From this account, how would you summarize the costs of following Jesus?
40. What are the costs of following Jesus?
41. Why are there costs in following Jesus?

Apply It

42. What situations this week might call for you to speak out about Jesus' identity?
43. How can you pray this week to help you talk about Jesus with others?
44. With whom can you pray this week for the purpose of denying yourself and following Jesus?
45. What would help you this week to remember your loyalty to Christ?
46. With whom in your circle of family or friends can you reaffirm your desire to follow Jesus?

All Scripture verses taken from New International Version



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