

## Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

February 3, 2019

### *A Focused Life*

#### LUKE

Luke 9:1-6

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### KEY VERSES

*9 Then Jesus<sup>a</sup> called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. <sup>3</sup> He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. <sup>4</sup> Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. <sup>5</sup> Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>6</sup> They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere. **Luke 9:1-6***

#### DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

After all the time the disciples have spent so far with Jesus, witnessing his ministry and healing, now He is calling them to go out and do the same. One of the best methods for applying scripture to our daily lives is through the ancient practice of Lectio Divina, or "divine reading." Though the format of Lectio can vary from time to time, use this basic structure to place yourself in the middle of the text:

- 1) Read through the passage slowly, identifying any key words or phrases that stick out to you.**
- 2) Read the passage a second time, identifying any particular emotions that come to the surface.**
- 3) Read the passage a third time, trying to identify any specific ways God might be calling you to act.**

The disciples likely felt ill-equipped to take on such a calling as Jesus has commanded. We often live our lives in a state of "perpetual preparation," wishing we had more time to be fully ready for the task at hand. Being a Christ-follower means we are called to participate in the work of Jesus just as we are.

***Among the infinite range of decisions and choices we encounter in our lives, our challenge is to discern how best to faithfully steward our time and resources. Discuss what this question means for you: "Of all the things we can do, what must we do?"***

The purpose of the church is not only to look inward and examine ourselves, our programs, and our own development, but to give ourselves away. The parable of the farmer sowing seeds reminds us that we are to be seed-bearers in our communities, neighborhoods, and workplaces. When we focus our identity on being "sent people," we must remain faithful to our calling to spread the good news, though the journey will be hard.

***Discuss what this question means to you and how it can nurture your purpose and calling: "How is the world different because I am here?"***

***Dear Lord, thank you for the adventure you have us set on, to be seed-bearers for your kingdom. Cultivate and inspire within us a focus to live as "sent people," spreading your light and love where you call us to go. Amen***