**Jesus Sends Out the Twelve**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 9:35-10:15; Mark 6:7-13;**

**and Luke 9:1-6**

**Bible Story Number: 2010320**

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**Jesus Sends Out the Twelve**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

At this time in his ministry, Jesus was well known. He traveled to the towns and villages, teaching and preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God. He healed the sick as he went. This story tells about how he prepares his disciples and sends them out in pairs to do the things he had been doing.

The Jews had a custom of "shaking the dust off their feet" as a sign or symbolic gesture of their separation from others. This practice is mentioned in this story.

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 9:35-10:15; Mark 6:7-13; and Luke 9:1-6**

This is what the Bible says.

Jesus was traveling to the towns and villages, teaching and preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God. He healed the sick as he went. When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them. They were tired and seemed like sheep without a shepherd.

He spoke to his discipleship and told them the harvest was abundant. He also said there were not enough workers. Jesus instructed them to pray to God, the Lord of the harvest, to send out workers into his harvest.

Jesus then called his 12 disciples together. He gave them authority over demons and gave them the ability to cast them out of demon-possessed people. He also gave them power to heal every disease and sickness.

Jesus then gave instructions to the 12 disciples. He told them not to go to Samaria but only to go to the Jews (the house of Israel). He referred to the Jews as lost sheep.

He told them to announce that the kingdom of heaven was near. They were to use the abilities he had given them to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, and drive out demons. He reminded them that these abilities were given to them without any cost to them, so they were to give it away without any charge.

He gave them instructions for their travel. They were not to take any money with them. They were not even to take a change of clothing. He said that a worker is worthy of his food.

Jesus also taught them what to do when they entered a new town. They were to find a worthy person in each town and stay with him or her. He instructed them to let their peace rest on that household. He also told them that if they were not welcomed, they were to go elsewhere. They were to shake the dust off their feet and leave that place. He told them that it would be more tolerable on the Day of Judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Before Jesus called his disciples together to send them out, what did he tell them about the harvest? What did he instruct them to pray for?
* Why do you think Jesus told his disciples to go to the Jews, and not to go to the Samaritans?
* Why do you think Jesus instructed his disciples not to take anything with them?
* Who were the disciples instructed to stay with?
* What were the disciples instructed to announce?
* What should we do in response to these teachings?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.