

## Questions for reflection

### *Jesus Sends Out The Seventy-Two*

When you read about Jesus and his disciples 'announcing and demonstrating the Kingdom of God' what do you think it means and how is it relevant for life on earth today? Do you see the 'kingdom come on earth as in heaven' in everyday life? How?

What should 'heaven on earth' or 'God with us' look like? What could we be doing to partner with God in his kingdom project?

To what extent do you feel equipped to take the message of the kingdom out in to your context? Is there a big gap between what we do in church and what you do in your life – or do you feel that your 'whole life' is an act of worship?

Some people associate Christianity with 'going to church', but *discipleship* has more to do with 'being sent out' of church in to a broken world. How do you feel about being 'sent out'?

How could you feel better equipped to live as a disciple of Jesus?

Can you identify things that get in the way of living fully and freely for God?

How has God used other people - 'people of peace' – to provide for you?

How often do you pray and review what God is calling you to do? Do you have a clear sense of purpose and direction?

Do you know that are known and loved by God? What does that mean to you? How does it change, challenge and motivate you?

*Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-two – Luke 10: 1 – 11; 17 – 20\**

*Sermon summary*

In Luke chapter 9 – Jesus talks about the cost of following him. We might have different ideas about what it means to ‘follow Jesus’. Is being a Christian the same as being a ‘disciple’, for example? One definition of discipleship might be *the re-ordering our priorities in the light of God’s love*. Discipleship is an on going, life long commitment to using our hearts, our brains, and our wills, to discern how we live for God. It doesn’t happen over night, but rather it’s a process of weighing up, giving up, taking up... as we grow in our relationship with God.

In Luke chapter 10 Jesus sends out 72 disciples who have ‘counted the cost’ in to a broken world to announce and demonstrate the wholeness of heaven. Scholars believe that the significance of the 72 (70 in some traditions) is a parallel to the 70 leaders Moses was instructed to appoint to help him lead during the Exodus period. By appointing 70/72 disciples to go out and announce the Kingdom of God, Jesus is indicating that a ‘new exodus’ is happening through his ministry of restoration – he is

bringing heaven to earth (God with us). **Jesus sent the disciples out in to a broken world to announce and demonstrate the wholeness of heaven.**

Read through the chapter two or three times – what strikes you?

Other things to notice from the chapter (from the talk on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>) -

Jesus sent the disciples out prayerful, but ready for action;

Jesus sent the disciples out without stuff or status, but resourced by God;

Jesus sent the disciples out focused and discerning;

Jesus sent the disciples out known and loved.

\*The words about judgement have been left out of this reading/study. Jack felt that they warrant a proper and thorough explanation/discussion which she didn't have capacity for here. We will return to this trickier portion of the text at some other time. Feel free to get your commentaries out and get stuck in if you want!