

CONVERSATION GUIDE

1. Take 5-10 minutes to discuss last week's sermon.
2. Most organizations have a mission. Google's mission is "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful." The Nehemiah Center's mission is "to provide assistance to low income families who are invested in seeking a better future for their children through education, emotional wellness and spiritual enrichment." What is the mission of FPC? What is the mission of the worldwide church? What is your mission?

The first part of Luke was telling us who Jesus is. Now Luke begins to tell us how we should live, and first verses of chapters 9 and 10 contain very specific and important instructions for us.

READ Luke 9:1-9, 10:1-21**DISCUSS and REFLECT**

Chapter 9 is an important transition in the gospel of Luke. The first part of Luke was telling us who Jesus is. Now Luke begins to tell us how we should live. In Luke 9 we read that Jesus gave the twelve disciples power to heal and sent them to preach (which can mean to persuade) and proclaim the kingdom of God. He then gave them instructions, and they went and did as he said. This made news that caught the attention of Herod and perplexed him. We are told that he then tried to see Jesus to understand who he was.

In Luke 10 Jesus appoints 72 others to go out ahead of him to the towns. This is important because it reinforces the message that doing what Jesus says is not just up to the church leadership, it's for all of us. Again he told them to heal the sick and proclaim that the kingdom of God is near. We read that the 72 returned with joy and reported that demons submitted to Jesus' name. Jesus then warns them to not be joyful about spirits submitting to them but instead be joyful that their names are written in heaven.

Both passages also include instructions for what to do when people reject those who were sent. Jesus tells them to simply leave and to wipe the dust

from their feet as a warning to them or testimony against them.

1. What does Jesus say is our mission?
2. Jesus instructs us to say "the kingdom of God has come near to you." Let's unpack this phrase – what does this mean for us and the world? Why do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to communicate this phrase? What would it look like to communicate this idea to people in your everyday life?
3. These passages include some language around rejecting the good news of the disciples, and the disciples themselves. What are some reasons that people reject Jesus in the Bible and in our current times? How do you feel, or how do you think you would feel, when people reject your efforts to talk to them about Jesus?
4. What is your motivation for telling others about Jesus and serving them and healing them? What does Jesus say our motivation should be (Luke 10:20)?
5. Jesus tells his disciples not to rejoice because spirits submitted to them, but rather to rejoice because their names are written in heaven. This should be our motivation – confidence in our eternal salvation. How does that help you heal others, serve them, and tell them about Jesus?

MEMORIZE**Luke 9:1-2:**

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 proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Now go and serve others, heal them, and preach the good news!

Additional comments about our mission and motivation:

Jesus says our mission is to preach, cast out demons, and heal. Preach also means to persuade. Jesus asks us to persuade people to that he is who he says he is. Casting out demons refers to literal demons and to anything that enslaves individuals and communities. In broader terms, we are called to be a blessing to others. In Ephesians 2:10 Paul says, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” We should be aware that God has very specific plans for us. As you go out to preach and heal, there are people with needs that only you can meet.

Our message will be destructive if we have the wrong motivation. We should not rejoice in, and be motivated by, our powers of persuasion or service to others. If we are motivated by those things we will become prideful. When we rejoice in our accomplishments we become coercive and manipulative. We get angry or hurt when people reject us. Jesus says your name is already written down, you are already accepted, you don’t need the acceptance of others. The secret to non-coercive, courageous, and loving evangelism is to know that your name is written in heaven.

Some of these comments are questions are based on a sermon given by Tim Keller on 2/16/2003.