



Southwest Indian Ministries Camps

Elementary Devotional

August 2023

Jesus wants us to go out and serve others.

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 1:6

Introduction:

No trip into the woods is complete without a little exploring. For as long as people have been going into the woods, people have been taking hikes. If you have ever been camping, odds are you've taken a few hikes as well.

Some prefer the relative ease and safety of trails that have been well-tread and marked out for them. Many of our national parks and state parks have beautiful hiking trails that can lead to some breathtaking sites, from mountaintop views to hidden waterfalls.



Some people prefer to take the trails on horseback. They ride like the old American explorers did down the trails and experience the beauty of nature on the back of a horse.

Still others, craving real adventure, leave the horse trails and walking paths and explore the deep woods. This can be a little more dangerous, especially in places filled with poison ivy or wildlife, but it's an adventure that you will never forget.

Whatever path people take, it's a much more exciting and thrilling way to spend the time than sitting inside and looking out a window. But that's exactly what many Christians choose in their spiritual lives. They would rather sit in their pews on Sunday and keep their faith at home during the week. They're missing out on the adventures they could have serving Jesus!

God doesn't want us to hide our faith. He needs us to get involved. Early on in his ministry Jesus began preparing his own disciples to take on the work he began – work he expects us to continue!

LUKE 10:1-17

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.

¹⁶ "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

MAIN POINT

Jesus didn't deceive his followers. He told them they had to go, and he told them it would be challenging, saying they would be like lambs among wolves. Nevertheless, Jesus asked them to go and spread the good news that He had given them.

The people returned to Jesus amazed. They shared the good news, just as Jesus asked, and they found that all the power Jesus promised them really was theirs. "Even the demons submit to us in your name," they said.



Jesus sent the seventy-two out to show them that they could continue his work when he was gone. He also did it to show us we could do the same.

The seventy-two learned three things from their first mission experience. First, they learned that Jesus needed their help. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few," he says. Jesus wants his disciples to travel the whole Earth, sharing the good news wherever they go.

The church is here to help those who believe in Jesus to grow and learn more about him, but it was never intended to be our hiding place. Jesus wants us to go out into our community and the whole world, sharing the good news in words and actions. We can tell people about Jesus, but we can also serve people, meeting their needs and being Jesus' hands and feet. Many times it's our actions, not our words, that convince people that Jesus really loves them!

They also learned to go in peace. Jesus told them to stay where they were invited and to share the good news with people willing to listen. God has given us free will, and Jesus said if someone rejected the word, we are to move on.

It's tempting to get into arguments with people, but arguments can lead to hateful words and actions. Sharing the gospel requires us to speak the truth in love. Be at peace with everyone and share the good news with those who welcome it.

The last thing they learned was that Jesus would give them power. The people who went out and served came back and reported that demons had submitted to them, just as they had Jesus. It's proof that when we serve Jesus, he gives us power to stand up to evil and show people that God is the one true God.

Whether or not you're an outdoor person, God is calling you to go out. He has enough believers sitting inside already, watching the world go by instead of serving in it. Ask Jesus to show you where to go and how to serve him when you get there. Don't miss out on the adventure that happens when we step out of our safe places and serve Jesus.

Jesus Sends Out Workers

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 10:1-11 (NIV).



E H O U S E Y H P U R S E V Y
 E D X F G R C H H P P E A C E
 J S A N D A L S U C P E A X C
 H C O N E G Y G N Z R Q Y B U
 T O W N N Z W O R K E R S I C
 M A L X G R E E T N Z Y S Q H
 L P N C H A R V E S T Q U Q X
 O P L Y F W L L L V G H R I G
 N P K E O I P D R I N K I N G
 E F I F N N E U C Q I L I M K
 T A N D E T E L F I A T U Y Z
 B R G Y Z W I O D E A K D E D
 A P D Z L W A F H E C N N A S
 G I O B O W O S U I D Z O Z L
 X R M W A G E S S L Y R M H K

PLENTIFUL	SANDALS	FEW	PEACE	ANYONE
KINGDOM	PURSE	TOWN	GREET	WORKERS
HARVEST	HEAL	HOUSE	DRINKING	SICK
ROAD	EATING	BAG	FIELD	WAGES



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Answer the questions and mail to: SIMCamps | 14202 N 73rd Ave | Peoria, AZ 85381.
Please print legibly.

Camper's Name:

Mailing Address:

Text #:

E-mail:

1. What instructions did Jesus give the seventy-two?
2. How did Jesus tell them to handle rejection?
3. What did Jesus give the seventy-two to help them on their mission?
4. Why does God need us to go out and serve others?
5. What are some things we can do this week to serve others in Jesus' name?