

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 9**  
**Gospel Lesson for Adults**

**Scripture: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

Trial run. The disciples have received their basic training, and now it is time to do a test case. Two by two Jesus sends them where he intends to follow — no lone rangers here. Some will receive the pairs, and some will not. Sent out as raw recruits, the disciples return seasoned disciples. They discover they can do the work Jesus has given them to do. Will we choose to do the work Jesus has given us to do?

**Theme: Sent where Jesus intends to go**

**Before Class:** You will need copies of the Bible or of the scripture for today which can be found below.

**Beginning:** Ask the group to be thinking of a time they had a difficult assignment and had a partner to help with the task.

**Opening Prayer:** Loving God, You have promised us that whenever two or three are gathered in your name, you are right there with us. Thank you, God, for your presence with us today. Help us to be mindful of your presence in our lives as we do your work in the world. Amen.

**The Scripture.** Read the "before" portion and discuss it, then the "after" portion and discuss it.

**Luke 10: 1-11, 16 "Before."** Ask for a volunteer to read this passage.

**Questions:**

Clearly, Jesus has done some serious training of the disciples. How do you suppose they were feeling at hearing this commission? (Excited? Terrified? Anxious? Hopeful? Curious? Something else?)

What was Jesus' strategy? (Send the disciples out to assess which towns would be most receptive for Jesus intended to follow them.)

I wonder why Jesus told them they were like "lambs in the midst of wolves?" (Perhaps so they would stay alert and keep on focus.)

What do you think of the "equipment" they were not allowed to take? (Verse 4)  
How were they to respond to acceptance? (Verses 7- 9) And to rejection? (Verses 10-11)

To what extent do you think Jesus' marching orders (verse 16) energized the disciples? (We don't know what they felt like when they left, but we do know how they felt when they returned.)

**"After" Luke 10: 17-20.** Ask for a volunteer to read what the disciples said (verse 17 and then Jesus' response (verses 18-20).

**Questions:**

Now, how are the disciples feeling? (Obviously pretty energized.)

Without getting caught up in possibly slight hyperbolic responses, what about this venture is encouraging to the disciples? (They can do the work they have been given to do — even when it seems scary — and especially when they share the load, not going as lone rangers.)

I wonder what is the important point of this mission to Jesus? (His disciples now know they can do this work; they know they can be there to help Jesus.)

**Getting Closure:** Engage in a discussion:

- Where in our ministries are we working in pairs?
- How could we enhance our lone ministries by finding ways to do things with one other person?
- Share experiences of how you have made this happen for you. (Does anyone have an e-mail prayer partner? A Telephone partner for prayer or sharing ideas? Occasional breakfast meetings? Two families getting together so kids can play and adults encourage each other?)

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for those you send to be with us as we work out our commissions from you. Be with us as we go two by two into the world to serve you. Amen.

## **Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

### **“Before”**

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

### **“After”**

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

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