



## NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

### Supplemental Texts

Mal. 3:1; 4:5; Matt. 3:1-2, 19-20; 4:23; 10; 14:1-13; Mark 1:15; 6:7-29, 30; Luke 3:1; 4:14-30; 5:1; 6:12-16; 7:27, 30-35; 8:26-56; 9:18-27; 11:13; 13:31; 22:35-36; 23:8; John 1:44; 15:18-21; Acts 31:51; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:7-13

### Study Summary

Jesus showed great power and authority in His ministry, preaching to the crowds of God's Kingdom and healing the broken and hurting. Now, Jesus gives some of His power and authority to the Twelve disciples, commissioning them to carry out the same ministry. Many accept the good news they share, but others misunderstand and reject it, just as they do the Messiah Jesus.

### Historical & Theological Background

**Shaking Off The Dust:** "The action of shaking off the dust of a gentile city from one's feet was practiced by Jews; they removed what was ceremonially unclean before returning to their own land, lest they should defile it. Thus the practice implied that the place in question was heathen and that the Jew had no fellowship with it (BC V, 269-271; SB I, 571). When the Christian missionaries did the same to Jews (Acts 13:51; cf. 18:6), it was a symbolic piece of evidence (μαρτύριον, par. Mk.; cf. 5:14; 21:13) against (Luke adds ἐπὶ) them that they were no part of the true Israel; they had refused the message of the kingdom of God". [Howard Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*]

**The Prophecy of Elijah:** The prophet Malachi foretells that Elijah will return before the Day of the LORD, the day of Israel's cleansing and deliverance (see Micah 3:1-2 & 4:5). Because of this prophecy, it was believed that before the Messiah appeared, Elijah would come and turn the hearts of the people back to God or, someone would come in the same power and character of Elijah's ministry, to do the same. Due to the high amount of messianic expectation during the time of Jesus' ministry, there were some among the Jews who thought that Jesus was this Elijah figure. Sadly, such people failed to listen to Jesus' own words on the matter, where He reveals that John the Baptist fulfilled such a role (see Luke 7:24-28).

## DISCUSSION PRIMER

Take some time this week to read Luke 9:1-10 slowly and prayerfully. Ask yourself these questions: How am I participating in the mission of Jesus? What is God doing within me and around me and how might I join in on that work? Come to group ready to discuss.

## TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

### LUKE 9:1-10

#### Big Idea: Jesus Gives Power and Authority to Carry Out His Mission

#### Fallen Condition Focus: Rejection

- What does Jesus give to his disciples? For what purpose (1-2)? How does this ministry relate to the ministry Jesus has been doing? (Matt. 4:23 & Luke 8:40-56)
- What are the contents of the disciples message (2)? (Luke 4:16-21 & Mark 1:15)
- How are the disciples to go about this ministry (3-5)?
- What is the meaning of Jesus' instructions in verse 5? (See HTB)
- Did everyone accept the message of the disciples? (See verse 5, 7-8)
- Why did some people think Jesus was Elijah (8)? (See Mal. 4:5-6 and HTB)
- What did Herod do to John the Baptist and why (9)? (See Matt. 14:1-12)
- What do the disciples do after completing their ministry journeys (10)?

**Gospel Connection:** Read Eph. 4:7-13. What does the victory of Christ mean for the churches ministry as we continue, in and by the Spirit, to join Christ in His mission?

## TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- What does it mean that Christ has given you authority and power? What gifts have you been given to carry out the mission of Jesus? (Consider 1 Cor. 12:4-11)
- Are Jesus' words to the disciples in verses 3-5 prescriptive for all Christians or descriptive of what the disciples were to do in this particular context? What can we learn from Jesus' instructions for carrying out His mission today?
- Jesus faced rejection and misunderstanding in, and the disciples would face the same (See John 15:18-21). Have you ever faced rejection or misunderstanding because of the gospel? How should we respond to rejection?
- Jesus and the disciples seek take time to rest and withdraw after they finish their missionary journeys (10). What can we learn from this about healthy rhythms in our own lives? Do you take time to rest? What should our rest look like?

## REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read *Luke 9:1-10* and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ?    |
| 2) The fallen human condition?        | 5) Our obedience to Christ?   |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ?        | 6) Our relationship to others |

## TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • a command to obey?  | • a beauty to behold?  | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe?  | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell?     |