

Living Water Fellowship

7th Sunday after the Epiphany – 23rd February 2025

COME TO JESUS

SONG: Let's Praise the Lord (AT 486)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Luke 10:1-12 & 17-20

¹ The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples & sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns & places he planned to visit. ² These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. ³ Now go, & remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Don't take any money with you, nor a traveller's bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don't stop to greet anyone on the road.

⁵ "Whenever you enter someone's home, first say, 'May God's peace be on this house.' ⁶ If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. ⁷ Don't move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating & drinking what they provide. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay. ⁸ "If you enter a town & it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick, & tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.' ¹⁰ But if a town refuses to welcome you, go out into its streets & say, ¹¹ 'We wipe even the dust of your town from our feet to show that we have abandoned you to your fate. And know this—the Kingdom of God is near!' ¹² I assure you, even wicked Sodom will be better off than such a town on judgment day.

¹⁷ When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!" ¹⁸ "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, & you can walk among snakes & scorpions & crush them. Nothing will injure you. ²⁰ But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."

CHILDREN'S TIME:

SONG: Here Is Love (PW 1025)

FAITH CHAT:

1. Have you ever been given what seemed an impossible task?
What was it? What did you do?
2. What do you think it means to say "*the Kingdom of God is near*"?

THE MESSAGE: *ANSWERING THE "WHY?": GO IN HIS POWER*

OFFERING SONG: Behold Our God

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – I SPEAK JESUS (Here Be Lions)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God...
May Christ in you draw those near you
into his saving grace.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Holy Spirit Living Water (AT 359)

SHOW HIS LOVE

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Remember:

You are an instrument of God's peace and an agent of his kingdom!

Continue praying through the week:

**Father prepare me for whatever you require today
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.
In Jesus' Name...Amen.**

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 10:1-12 & 17-20. What questions immediately come to mind? What strikes you as you read this text?
2. What do we see in 10:1-11 about the mission that God has called us into, as his people? How do you think the church as a whole is performing in that mission?
3. What does Jesus mean when he says that there is a "plentiful" harvest, but a "scarcity" of laborers (10:2)? What is Jesus' resolution to that issue?
4. What would you say to someone who didn't feel any sense of urgency, or any sense of involvement in spreading the gospel? How would you encourage them to participate more fully in Christ's mission to the world?
5. Where do you think are some of the ripest "harvests" (most ready mission fields) in today's world? What makes them that way?
6. Why does Jesus teach his disciples to be more excited about their salvation in the gospel than they are excited about power, authority, or success that come in sharing the gospel? How are those other things at times a distraction or not the main point?
7. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. How should you as an individual & the church live in waiting for the full manifestation of the Kingdom of God in Christ's return? How well are you/we doing that? What needs to change?
8. After laying the groundwork with the promise of peace declaring the advent of God's kingdom of grace & restoration, why do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to proclaim his judgment for those who reject that original message? (Luke 10:11) How is God glorified even in judgment? What attributes of God are displayed in judgment?
9. How does announcing that a different set of rules, a new way of life, a manner of living unlike what is typically seen in the world is now possible, cause you to be a target from those around you while at the same time being an attraction to others? How has Jesus in Luke 6:27-38 already prepared the response of his followers for that reaction?
10. Reflect for a moment on verse 20...In reality, where in your life do you tend to find joy? Is your greatest source of joy what you do for yourself, what you do for others, what you do for Jesus, or what he has done for you? Talk about that in light of verse 20.
11. Jesus promises that wherever he sends us, he is going there too. How does that give you confidence to obey? Where & to whom do you believe Jesus is sending you & a companion this week in Jesus' name?