

**Be Reformed** – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

**Be Charismatic** – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

**Be Community** – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

**Be Missional** – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

## Matthew 9:35-10:15

35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

10:1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. 2 The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. 9 Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. 11 And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. 15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

## Study Guide 12 Dec 2010 – The Mission of God



### Summary

Jesus had compassion on the people. Although He was perfect and righteous, his response is compassion – suffering with the people in their sinfulness.

And then he, seeing the great need, first asks his disciples to pray. Jesus puts prayer before action, firstly because true power and true ability to achieve anything does not depend on our strength, action or planning, but on God alone.

We pray so that our own hearts may be changed. When we submit and open ourselves to God and ask Him to accomplish something, we change into His image and He gives us His heart for those we pray for.

Jesus then calls his workers, from all walks of life, and transforms and empowers them to do His work. Jesus puts authority into the hands of His disciples. They have watched him and learnt but now they must do it themselves. We likewise also ought to do the work of the gospel.

### Key points

You are perfect for the plans God has to use you for His service.

### Explanation

>>What happens when we pray for God to send out labourers?

>>Do we wait for God to call us to go out and preach the gospel or should we always consider ourselves "on mission"?

>>How can we have compassion for the lost?

### Application

>>Singapore is a society with links to many other nations. Make a commitment to pray for one or more of these nations regularly and form groups with like-minded people in church.

>>Take stock of your life in the church community and make sure that you are putting your ministry into practice. Many of us have watched for months and years – Jesus calls us to take action as well!

### Final thoughts

Pray! Pray for people, pray for a nation. Pray for labourers for God's work. Pray and our hearts will be changed.