

## WEEK 3

### TEACHING GUIDE



## BIG IDEA

Jesus sends us out together.

## BIBLE

Luke 10:1-3; Romans 5:1-8; Acts 1:8

## WHAT? What are we talking about today?

### ACTIVITY | Shaving Cream Pie

- Welcome back to *Sent Together*. Today, I have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to enjoy. If we work together and communicate well, someone has agreed to be on the receiving end of a pie to the face.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your program, recruit one adult volunteer who is willing to get messy during this activity. When you're ready to play, ask give five students each a paper bag, with each bag containing only one of the following five items: a can of shaving cream, a disposable pie tin, a pair of goggles, a towel, and a top hat. Instruct everyone to keep their items a secret, except for the person with the top hat. They should put on the hat, because they're the team leader and the only one allowed to speak. The other players are only allowed to nod "yes" or "no" and can only move when the team leader tells to move. The team leader will have one minute to figure out which item each person has in their bag and then instruct them to do the following things in order:*
  - Give the adult volunteer the goggles to wear.
  - Reveal the pie tin.
  - Fill the pie tin with shaving cream.
  - Hand the adult the towel.
  - Pie the adult in the face.

### QUESTION | "Do you prefer working together or alone?"

- That last activity required some serious coordination. Working with other people has some pretty big potential benefits, but sometimes it seems like a little more trouble than it's worth. **So what about you? Do you prefer working together or alone?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give a few students a chance to respond.*
- Some of us might feel like working alone is a more peaceful experience than working with others.
  - When we're on our own, we can set our own pace, be responsible for our own work, and take credit for all our results.

- Plus, when we're working with a team, it means we'll all feel the consequences if someone slacks off, doesn't communicate, or goes totally rogue.

### DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion time and save it for small groups!*
  - **Let's debate: what's the best team sport? What's the worst?**
  - **Has a misunderstanding ever made it difficult for you to work well with a team member, partner, or classmate? What happened?**

### VIDEO | A Clip from *The Office* (Dwight Gives Directions to Schrute Farms)

- The hardest part of a group project really is the communication and standard-setting phase of the project.
  - The whole process can take a quick nosedive if we're not able to be clear with each other up front about who's doing what, when we need to meet, and how we're going to get the project done right.
  - But sometimes our communication with one another, or our understanding of what we're supposed to do, feels a little more like this . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As a teaching tool, play a short clip [like this one](#) (9:10-9:32) from *The Office*, where Dwight gives Andy and Angela directions to Schrute Farms. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- We've all probably experienced a "walk until you hear the beehive" conversation. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where what you wanted to communicate seemed so simple, but it came off really confusing? Like . . .
  - Your phone's autocorrect just wouldn't cooperate.
  - You accidentally sent an emoji that did *not* mean what you thought it meant.
  - You were trying to give someone a compliment but they got really offended instead?
- Yeah, miscommunication is awkward, and we all do it sometimes. Before Jesus left earth, he gave us a pretty clear mission — but I wonder if we sometimes misunderstand what that mission is or how it's supposed to work.

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion time and save it for small groups! If you have fewer than 15 students, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
  - **\* What are some ways you think people could misunderstand the mission Jesus gave us?**
  - **\* What questions do you have about the mission Jesus has given us?**

### SCRIPTURE | Luke 10:1-3

- For the last couple of weeks, we've been talking about the mission Jesus gave us to share the good news and make disciples wherever we go. It's the last instruction Jesus gave his followers before he left earth to return to heaven. But it's not the only time Jesus sent his followers out on a mission.
  - Earlier in Jesus' ministry, before he was killed and rose from the dead, Jesus had been traveling throughout the hill country of Nazareth, near a place Galilee.

- On this journey, Jesus had already assembled his closest followers, who were known as his twelve disciples, and sent them out to tell people about his coming.
- But after Jesus sent out his twelve closest disciples, the mission still wasn't complete. There was still more work to be done, and more people to send!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Luke 10:1-3.*
- These 72 people needed to work together to accomplish the mission Jesus had given.
  - Jesus sent them out in pairs (not on their own) to explore unknown places and accomplish this incredible task together.
  - Jesus told this group of 72 people, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." In other words, "I have a mission so big, we're going to need to get some more help."
- We Jesus-followers have been given an important mission — but sometimes, when we hear Jesus' instructions to go into the world, share the gospel, and make disciples, we think it's a mission we have to take on alone. But it's not. This is a mission we absolutely can't accomplish alone.

### DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion time and save it for small groups! If you have fewer than 15 students, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
  - **When Jesus sent his followers out in pairs, what are some ways you think they were able to support each other on their mission?**
  - **\* When Jesus was talking about harvests and farmers, what do you think he was trying to tell us about the mission we're on?**

### VIDEO | A Clip from Kaima Farm (Nature's Incredible Power of Renewal)

- Jesus often used images about planting and harvesting to explain spiritual ideas. For those of us who aren't farmers, we probably need these analogies explained to us. But these word pictures were highly relatable to the communities Jesus was speaking to at the time.
- Kaima Farm is a nonprofit in Israel with the goal of helping young people find a passion for farming, while simultaneously providing a healthy, sustainable food source for their community. In this program, teenagers learn:
  - How to plant, tend, and harvest their crops.
  - How to do all of those things in a community, alongside others.
  - How to use their harvest to care for others.
  - And sometimes, they even learn a few more things along the way.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play a short clip from a video [like this one](#) (0:00-0:55) from Kaima Farm. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- Jesus said there is a harvest to be had. With God, the good news of Jesus is already growing, taking root, and beginning to transform people. But now Jesus invites us to be a part of that harvest. With Jesus, we get to see lives change before our eyes . . . if we're willing to join Jesus on his mission — together.

### SCRIPTURE | Acts 1:6-8

- But some of us might feel we're not the best people for the job Jesus has invited us to do.
  - If you've ever felt like Jesus' mission isn't really meant for you, you're not alone. In fact, probably all of the Jesus-followers you've ever known (including those who walked with Jesus and even wrote the words we're reading now in the Bible) know how you feel too.

- When Jesus was preparing to leave earth and officially leave this mission in the hands of his followers, this is how that interaction went . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Acts 1:6-8.*
- These disciples were excited! After all, they had just seen Jesus come back from the dead. I think you'd be pretty pumped up after that too.
  - In their excitement, they asked Jesus if this would be the moment he became the ruler of Israel! But that wasn't actually Jesus' plan.
  - Jesus' answer was surprisingly simple. He told them, while he could do anything he wanted, he didn't want to take on this mission all by himself. Instead, this would be a team effort, and he wanted them involved.

### **SCRIPTURE** | Romans 5:1-8

- Another person who seems to have understood what it's like to feel unworthy of Jesus' mission was a guy named Paul.
- Paul wrote a lot of what we now refer to as "the New Testament" of the Bible. But when he originally wrote the words we're about to read, he was simply writing a letter to the Jesus-followers in Rome. In that letter, he said something really interesting.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Romans 5:1-8.*
- Sometimes we can live in fear of our mission because we worry we won't be good enough, smart enough, or ready enough. We let self-doubt hold us back because we know the things we're still going through and the pain we still need healing from.
  - But Paul speaks directly to this fear. Jesus didn't wait until we were holy, strong, and capable to call us, he says. When we were at our worst, we were still wanted by Jesus. And when the disciples didn't feel anywhere close to ready enough to be a part of this mission, Jesus still sent them out.
  - The truth is, you and I aren't capable of joining Jesus on his mission alone. We don't have the strength, skill, or power to do it all on our own. But we were never meant to. To accomplish Jesus' mission, we need God's Spirit and we need each other.
- When we read about Jesus telling his followers to go and make disciples, it's easy to think, "Okay, so what can *I* do? What's *my* role?" But we forget Jesus wasn't just talking to you or me alone. He was talking to all of us. So maybe a better question is this: "What can we do, together?" Because Jesus' mission requires all of us. That's why **Jesus sends us out together.**

### *NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?*

### **GOSPEL** | THE GOSPEL, instructing how to talk about it and have easy language to use

- Jesus Sends us on a mission. Jesus sends us to bring healing. **Jesus sends us out together.**
- Let's see how well WE can share the gospel. It starts with knowing the Gospel.
  - Each week for this series, we will walk through 'How to Share the Gospel.'
  - The gospel simply means to share the Good News. The good news about JESUS!
  - Let's jump in together.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show slide with 'The Gospel – 3-Missing 4 words'*
  - God wants us to be in relationship with Him. Jesus gives us the opportunity to be in relationship with God because of Jesus' sacrifice.
  - We see in the slide, 4 words are missing. Where did they go? Let's work together to fill this in...
    - *(Build a Slide Progression – Adds Each word in Order as they get it.)*

- *Speaker Note: Clearly present the Gospel (this is one example of one way to share the gospel)*
  - **What's the Missing word? GOD** - All of us were created to be in a relationship with Him. Genesis 1:27
  - **What's the Missing word? SIN** - Because of sin, that relationship was broken. Romans 3:23
  - **What's the Missing word? JESUS** - Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay the penalty for our sins and fix what has been broken. John 3:16
  - **What's the Missing word? GIFT** - Jesus offers forgiveness and eternity in heaven as a free gift. Ephesians 2:8-9
    - **CHOICE** - God loves us completely, so he allows us to choose whether to receive or reject this gift. Romans 10:9-10
- **RESPONSE TIME** – When sharing the gospel with others, ask them to respond. It could look like this...
  - **You can make this choice today.**
  - If you haven't made this choice yet, what is holding you back? (listen to their response)
  - If they want to make a decision, take time to pray with them...
- Pray with me something like this: (*show as slide on the screen – 'The Gospel with prayer'*)
  - **Dear God**, I know I have disobeyed You and I need you. My sin separates me from you. I am sorry I have disobeyed you, but today I turn back to You. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and that my sins can be forgiven. I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. I trust Jesus to save me. God thank you for your forgiveness and help me to obey you and live for you the rest of my life. Amen
- If someone prays that prayer with you! That's amazing! Get them connected to a church that can walk alongside them to help them grow in their relationship with you Jesus.

## OBJECT LESSON | Tres Hermanas Farming

- Jesus' mission is big. It was too big for 12 people, too big for 72 people, and certainly too big for you or me alone.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, collect a variety of fresh or dried corn, beans, and squash. You'll also need a planter, soil, and corn, beans, and squash seeds to plant. As you teach, display the items and plant the seeds.*
- The Tres Hermanas (which means "three sisters") method of farming is the indigenous American tradition of planting corn, beans, and squash together in one field.
  - In modern farming, it's common to see a whole farm with just rows and rows of crops of the exact same vegetable growing, but the Tres Hermanas method is still legendary for the abundance of healthy crops it produced.
  - In a field planted using this strategy, you would see the tall corn stalks providing a perfect, natural place for the beanstalk to climb. You would also see the thorns from the squash vines serving as a natural deterrent to any animals looking for a snack. And you would see the corn that had been reinforced by the beanstalks able to withstand harsh winds far better than other fields of corn.
  - All three of these plants reached their greatest fruitfulness by protecting one another, and when one plant would thrive it only helped the others thrive as well.

## REFLECTION | Your Two

- In the story we read today, Jesus sent out his disciples in pairs, but that's not a math formula we have to try to replicate. In other passages of Scripture, we see groups of all different sizes going together to participate in Jesus' mission.

- So if "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few," as Jesus said, I wonder who you'd consider your fellow workers? Maybe we could take our cues from the indigenous American farmers and think in threes. **As you're joining Jesus on his mission, who are your two (or more)?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, prepare three large clear containers, each filled with either dried corn kernels, dried beans, or dried squash or pumpkin seeds. Give each student a [miniature paper envelope](#) or [plastic container](#). Invite them to create their own Tres-Hermanas-inspired container by adding at least one of each item to their container and writing either this week's Big Idea, Luke 10:2, or the names of at least two people on their container as a reminder. As they write and reflect, play some reflective music or a suggested worship song from the Music section of your Series Guide.*
- Jesus has already given you all the invitation you need to join him on his mission. But let me invite you to accept his invitation today — together.
  - **ACCEPT THE INVITE.** Instead of waiting for the day you feel worthy or capable enough to join Jesus on this mission, you should know Jesus invites us all to join him exactly as we are right now.
  - **START SMALL.** The ends of the earth feel very far away. So instead of getting lost in the endless possibilities of what could be out there, why not get started right where you are? How can the unique amazing person you are share Jesus' love with someone in a simple but powerful way this week?
  - **PARTNER UP.** Who are your two? Or three? Or more? Who are the people who will encourage you, pray with you, challenge you, and partner up with you? And how will you join Jesus' mission — together?
- We all have a role to play in the mission Jesus is sending us on, but maybe the most important thing about this mission is that it's not dependent on any one person.
- So this week, as we're considering the mission Jesus is sending us on, let's take some time to change our question. Instead of looking at the world and asking, "What can I do?" Let's begin to ask, "What can we do — together?"
- Remember, Jesus' mission requires all of us. That's why **Jesus sends us out together.**

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion time and save it for small groups! If you have fewer than 15 students, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
  - What obstacles keep you from sharing the good news of Jesus with others? How could the support of other people help you overcome those obstacles?
  - \* Do you think other Jesus-followers ever make it more difficult for you to share the good news of Jesus effectively? If so, what do you think a solution might be?
  - Read Acts 1:8. How do you think God's Spirit helps us when we're sharing the good news of Jesus? Do you have any firsthand experience with that?
  - This week, what are some ways we could work together and support each other as we share the good news of Jesus?