

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve



Theme: Telling others about Jesus - Proper (15)

Object: A suitcase

Scripture: These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Mark 6:8-9 (NIV)

It's the time of year when many people are going on vacation. If you have ever gone on a trip, you know that it takes a lot of preparation to get ready to go. You may need to get someone to bring in your newspaper and your mail while you are gone. If you have a dog or a cat, someone has to take care of your pet. Probably the most important thing you have to do when you go on a trip is pack your suitcase. I brought a suitcase today. Let's imagine that we are going on a trip and make a list all of the things we will need to pack in our suitcase. Let's see, we will need socks, underwear, jeans, shirts, shorts, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, comb and brush, and a swim suit and flip-flops for the beach. Have I forgotten anything? (Allow time for the children to add to the list.) Oh, I thought of something I forgot. My laptop! I can't go a week without checking my email or surfing the Internet!

When he was on the earth, Jesus traveled around from village to village teaching, healing people, and casting out demons. One day, he called his twelve disciples to him and said, "I want you to go out two by two. I am giving you all of the authority you need to cast out evil spirits."

That sounds like a pretty big task, doesn't it? That meant that they would have to travel from town to town just as Jesus had been doing. I imagine the disciples thought to themselves, "Wow! I had better go home and start packing!"

But then Jesus gave them further instructions. "Take nothing for your journey except a walking stick -- no food, no traveler's bag, and no money. You can wear sandals, but no extra clothing."

No food, no money, no extra clothes -- how could the disciples possibly make this journey? They found people who would welcome them and they stayed with them in their homes. These people fed them and gave them everything they needed for the journey. The Bible tells us that the disciples went out telling everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God. They also cast out many evil spirits and they healed many sick people. In other words, they did exactly what Jesus told them to do and he gave them the power to do it.

Jesus told you and me to go and make disciples. I wonder if sometimes we delay following his command because we think we aren't ready. If we would just go, like the Twelve did, he would give us the ability to share the Good News with others. What do you think? Let's go!

Father, we know that many people need to hear the Good News. Jesus has told us to go and make disciples. Help us to be willing to go. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

JOURNEY WALKING: Take the children on a JOURNEY WALK and tell them to be aware and watch for items that they could put into a suitcase. The teacher should have many things that the children might need for the journey hidden along the walk for children to find to place in the suitcase that the teacher is carrying as she leads the class along. To make the journey more exciting -- start SLOWLY and keep moving and walking faster and faster so that the children will have to HURRY to find things for their journey's suitcase and then RUN back to class for the story!

BIBLE VERSE RELAY: Let the children line up and take turns RUNNING to the teacher's suitcase and take one word from today's Bible verse which is written on a slip of paper. After all the children have had a turn to get a slip of paper, let children arrange the words in order to form the Bible verse. The children will then tape the words on a large picture drawing of a suitcase on a piece of poster board and hang on the classroom wall.

LACED SUITCASE: Give the children a piece of construction paper to cut in half and decorate to look like a suitcase with a paper handle and tape the two halves together on three sides. Then hole punch around the edges and lace in and out of the holes with yarn and tie the ends into a knot to hold the suitcase together. The children will then place pictures or the names of items written on slips of paper that the teacher provides into their suitcase. These papers might have words from our lesson or parts of the Bible verse and names of other children who need to hear about having FAITH in Jesus Christ or who need to come to Sunday School.

2 X 2 HUNT: Let the children go out in groups of two to find enough letters around a designated room to spell G-O-O-D N-E-W-S. When they have found the letters, they will bring them back and tape to a piece of construction paper. When they have completed the 2 x 2 hunt tell the children that JESUS IS THE GOOD NEWS!

GOOD NEWS CLAY: Give the children some modeling clay or Play-Doh to make long snake-like clay letters to form GOOD NEWS! Let children share ideas of how they can share the GOOD NEWS about Jesus with other children. Let children tell one another or about the GOOD NEWS or ask each other questions about what the GOOD NEWS really is!

GOOD NEWS BOOKS: Give the children construction paper to cut into pieces and make small booklets with stars, stickers and words about the GOOD NEWS. Show happy faces, the Cross, hearts, etc and encourage children to TELL THE STORY ABOUT JESUS to other friends and neighbors!