



10.2

DEVOTIONAL

LUKE 10:2 5-DAY PRAYER DEVOTIONAL



And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this five-day journey of sharing Jesus' prayer burden to send out laborers into the ripe harvest fields of the world.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

READ: Each day has a devotional thought accompanied by Scripture. Read this to assist you in thinking through the concepts before you.

RESPOND: Prayerfully answer the questions asked in each section by placing yourself in the middle of the experience of the seventy-two. When you do not know an answer to a question, pray and re-read the Scriptures for the day. Invite mentors into your devotional experience by asking their opinions about questions you do not understand. With the help of the Holy Spirit, answering these questions will help you discover God's heart.

PRAYER FOCUS: Each pray for one major group of people, representing many unreached people groups within them. We have chosen five such groups, you can easily remember them by using the **THUMB** acronym, which stands for Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious/Universities, Muslim, and Buddhist.

SHARE: Share what you are learning and your commitment to obey God's Word with friends and other Christians in your sphere of influence.



DAY 1

DAY 1 | INVITATION FOR INTERCESSION

Did you know that 42% of our world remains unreached by the good news of the kingdom of God?

In the next few days, we will learn about the need, the readiness of the world to receive the good news, Jesus' heart and compassion towards lost ones, and the potential your prayers have to change the spiritual destinies of nations.

Through the course of this devotional, we will spend time reading the account of Jesus sending out seventy-two individuals in the book of Luke. Luke is the only known non-Jewish author of a book in the Bible. He wrote his account of Jesus' life to a non-Jewish audience. Of the four gospel accounts, Luke's account is meticulously thorough, researched, structured, and indicative of a skilled writer.

So, it is not surprising that Luke presents the only gospel account that records the sending of the seventy-two. Thus far in Luke's Gospel, Jesus had begun His public ministry. He had preached the Gospel, healed the sick, cast out demons, and declared the Kingdom of God with powerful demonstrations. In chapter nine of Luke's Gospel, Jesus sent out the twelve disciples equipped with His authority to proclaim God's Kingdom and to heal the sick.

Reminiscent of the sending of the twelve, Jesus gives similar instructions to seventy-two more individuals.





LUKE 10:1-2

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

RESPOND

1. Why did Jesus send them two by two?
2. Who were the seventy-two?
3. Why did Jesus send them into the same places he was about to go?
4. What could be the reason for a scarcity of laborers in a plentiful harvest?
5. How do you pray for more laborers?

God's desire has always been to reach *all* humanity with His message of salvation. Many in the world are ready to receive this message. Only our obedience can bridge the gap between God's heart and the hopelessness of the unreached. Will we obey Him? First in prayer, then by bearing the good news to those around us until we reach the uttermost parts of the world?

PRAYER FOCUS | TRIBAL THUMB

Pray for the tribal groups of the world. The tribal groups collectively include 161 million people in 704 people groups with 60 cross-cultural workers for every one million Tribals.

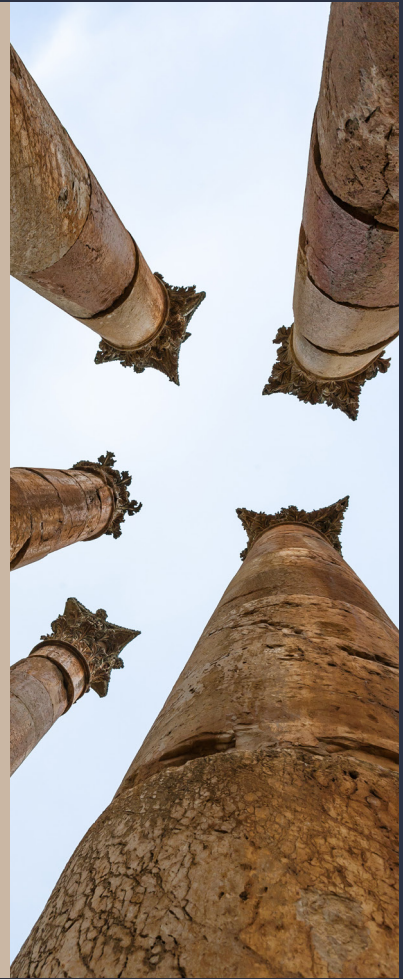
- Pray for God to call laborers towards specific tribal groups.
- Tribal environments are vastly hostile to outsiders. Pray for tribal students who leave their homes would find Jesus and return as a laborer to their native tribe.
- Pray for courage for the called ones of God to answer God's call as they face language, cultural, ethnic, and religious barriers.
- Pause for one minute: Ask the Spirit of God how you should pray for the unreached tribal groups and pray as He directs.

DAY 2

DAY 2 | WHO WILL GO?

Jesus instructs the seventy-two on the do's and don'ts of entering into the harvest field. As you read the Scriptures, it will become clear that he did not just send them with instructions but with Kingdom authority.

The same authority Jesus possessed and manifested through the many miracles He performed, He gave to them. He commanded them to declare "the kingdom of God is near," regardless of how that message would be received. He fully expected them to heal the sick just as he had done many times before. Jesus was their example. He came proclaiming the kingdom of God to them, and now it was their turn to be the proclaimers.



LUKE 10:3-12

Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.



RESPOND

1. Jesus compared the seventy-two to lambs being sent among wolves. What made him equate them to lambs among wolves?
2. Jesus did not want them to carry anything to sustain them. Why?
3. Why do you think Jesus instructed them not to greet anyone on the way?
4. How were they to receive their host's hospitality?
5. The concept of peace is repeated in this passage. First Jesus instructs the seventy-two to be peace bringers, then He asks them to look for a person of peace. Who or what is a person of peace?

Jesus did not want the baggage they might carry to encumber the seventy-two. He wanted simple followers who were not tied down to material things—followers who were willing to obey His every word and carry out the mission, following the example He had set before them.

We don't know much about these men, but we do know they followed Jesus. Their proximity to Jesus and the task he entrusted them with indicates their deep intimacy with him. God is still looking for laborers—unattached, willing, unified, obedient, simple men and women of peace—such as those who followed Jesus.

Laborers who will audaciously carry the message equally to those who would gladly receive them and to those who would spitefully reject them.

These modest requirements to be a messenger for Jesus should fill us with great hope. If they could do it, so can we. God's love compels each of us to pray and go to the ripe fields of harvest.

PRAYER FOCUS | HINDUS THUMB

Hindus belong to a multifaceted religious group that worships a multitude of gods. The belief systems of Hindus are as varied as the gods they serve. The Indian subcontinent contains the majority of Hindus today. Too many in India believe “to be Indian is to be Hindu.” The national and cultural identity of one of the world's largest nations is entrenched in a religion of appeasement and fear. Hindus are made up of 860 million people in 1,843 people groups with only two workers for every one million. Hindus need Jesus.

- Pray for open doors to minister in creative contexts that will help missionaries engage Hindus, especially among India's booming younger population.
- Pray against ancient strongholds of fear. Many equate leaving behind Hinduism to leaving behind their families.
- Pray for Hindu international students to be radically saved during their college journeys. Pray that these very same ones will return to their families and tell them about Jesus.
- Pause for one minute: Ask the Spirit of God how you should pray for Hindus and pray as He directs.

DAY 3

DAY 3 | HIS COMPASSION, OUR COMMISSION

Do you remember the person God sent after you when you did not yet know Him? Most of our experiences involve a faithful Christian propelled by the compassion of God, ministering to us during our darkest seasons. This is how many of us found freedom from a life of sin and made our way into the Kingdom. Because of the faithful witness of a follower of Jesus, many of us found freedom from a life of sin and made our way into the Kingdom of God.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem once, and so today He weeps over every soul that does not know Him, every soul that is in jeopardy of eternal damnation. God's compassion is our motivation for earnest prayer.

MATTHEW 9:35-38

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. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."



PRAYER FOCUS | UNRELIGIOUS THUMB

Increasing number of people identify as "unreligious" today. "Religion" has become a byword to this generation.

As followers of Jesus, we have a responsibility to redeem our Christian identity in our culture. The 'unreligious' number at around 121 million people in 15 people groups with twelve workers for every one million. This growing group needs our prayer.

- Pray for workers to get a burden for those who have closed themselves off to God.
- Pray for the redemption of the negative cultural identity of Christians.
- Pray for personal opportunities to share your faith with an unreligious person this week.
- Pause for one minute: Ask the Spirit of God how you should pray for the unreligious people of the world and pray as He directs.

RESPOND

1. What accompanied Jesus' proclamation of the Gospel? Is the Gospel accompanied by this in most places where it is preached?
2. What was the reason Jesus felt compassion for the crowd?
3. Have you ever been motivated by compassion into action?
4. God's compassion is tied to His exhortation for prayer; why is that?
5. Are there any differences between Luke 10:2 and Matthew 9:37?

Jesus' compassion in Matthew was the reason he instructs us to pray for harvesters. God's compassion towards the world is the greatest avenue for social justice. Human compassion is exhaustible. When our personal struggles overwhelm us, they can empty us of our compassion. God's compassion is a constant (Isaiah 49: 15-16).

When we lose heart and stop praying, God's compassion burdens our heart for the lost once again. As we pray for unknown harvest fields, for strangers we have never met, we must remember each one we pray for is known by our gracious and merciful God. They are priceless, eternal souls who will spend eternity in fellowship with God in heaven or separated from Him in hell. God's compassion towards them should compel us to pray.



PRAYER FOCUS | UNIVERSITIES THUMB

EveryCampus reports that only 33% of the 4,948 university campuses in the United States have an active student ministry. Our universities are becoming increasingly hostile places for the gospel. As the pressure on Christians has increased, God has promised a great awakening through prophetic words. We must pray with great anticipation for this prophetic promise to become a reality. Pray for God to call laborers towards specific tribal groups.

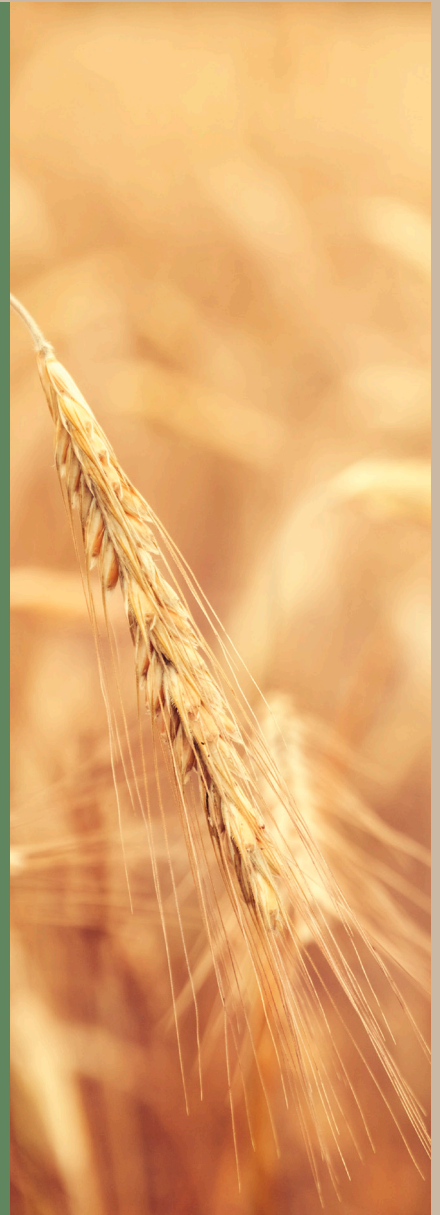
- Pray for favor upon university ministries, such as Chi Alpha, to have access to the campus
- Pray for a student awakening within our university campuses.
- Pray that college students will wake up to their need for God over material blessings, personal ambition, and worldly success.
- Pause for one minute: Ask the Spirit of God how you should pray for universities and pray as He directs.

DAY 4

DAY 4 | JOY OF THE HARVEST

When the seventy-two returned to Jesus they had great cause for joy. They witnessed their own hands doing the works that they had observed Jesus do. They were on a spiritual high. The seventy-two understood their kingdom power. It wasn't just a concept anymore. It was a reality that made demons shudder. They were amazed that it actually worked.

Jesus is quick to remind them of Satan's fall, which was rooted in pride. At times when God's power is manifest through us, we can attribute God's authority in us to be a result of our meritorious work. This cannot be farther from the truth. We must remember to give God glory. His authority was given to us as a gift to establish Kingdom priorities not for personal elevation. Jesus readily shared His followers' joy upon hearing how they exercised spiritual authority. Then He refocused their eyes on the true cause for joy.



LUKE 10:17-20

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."



RESPOND

1. What was the attitude of the seventy-two when they returned?
2. What made the seventy-two joyful?
3. Why did Jesus talk about Satan in response to their joy?
4. Jesus' authority extended beyond casting out demons. Over what other things does Jesus give the seventy-two power over?
5. Jesus refocuses their eyes on the true cause for joy. What is it?

In Hebrews 12:2, read about the joy that was set before Jesus as He endured the suffering and shame of the cross. This same joy, the joy of having many more sons and daughters named and inscribed in the Book of Life is the true cause for our celebration too. At the end of the harvest, we will joyfully celebrate at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb with everyone who was reached because we chose to pray. What a day of joy that will be!

Imagine your prayers today will be the cause for celebration in eternity! Before we can celebrate, we get to pray. Praying for the lost in the light of the celebration to come is the joy set before you now.

PRAYER FOCUS | MUSLIMS THUMB

Muslims are one of the hardest people groups to reach. Spanning continents and cultures, Islam today has perhaps the strongest unified cultural identities in the world. Many Muslims have seen visions of Jesus. Some have experienced miracles and have led others around them to faith. But the need is still great. Currently, there are 1.3 billion Muslims in 1,344 people groups. There are a mere six workers for every one million Muslims. How will they know if more don't go?

- Pray for God's supernatural power to meet many more Muslims where they are.
- Pray for workers to have access into Islamic countries.
- Pray for the fear against Muslims that exist in our society to turn into compassion toward their lostness.
- Pray for Muslim international students on our campuses to meet Jesus through their Christian friends on campus.
- Pause for one minute: Ask the Spirit of God how you should pray for Muslims and pray as He directs.

DAY 5

DAY 5 | SCARCITY IN THE MIDDLE OF PLENTY

LUKE 10:2

And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

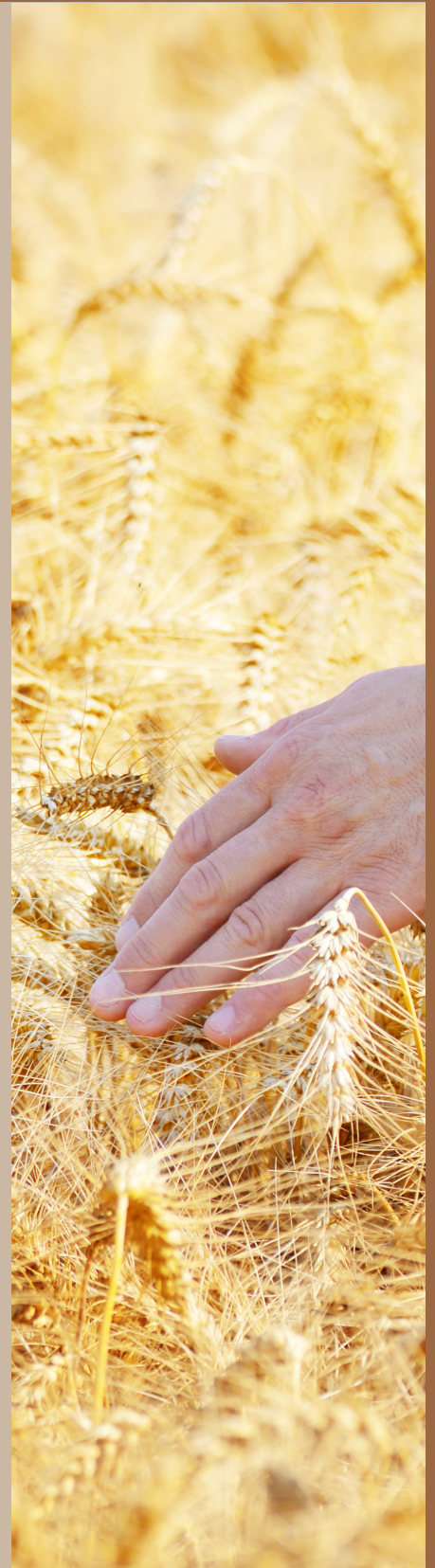
A plentiful harvest with a lack of laborers is a mismatch that boggles the mind. Have you ever wondered how there could be so few laborers when the harvest is huge?

In the book of Jonah, read the story of a prophet who circumvented God's instructions and refused to go to the people to whom he was sent. Could it be that modern-day Jonahs are refusing to answer God's call to action?

Jesus' instruction for our earnest prayer may, in fact, be to turn back the hearts of men and women who heard the call to be obedient to walk into it.

RESPOND

1. Have you ever felt God ask you to do something? Did you do it?
2. What does earnest prayer look like?
3. Who is the Lord of the harvest?





The word “earnest” means to be serious, dedicated, steadfast, committed, diligent, heartfelt, and passionate about something. This is the posture Jesus wants us to take when we pray for laborers.

Praying with passion instead of praying as a duty will move the “Lord of the harvest” to send more laborers. Praying with passion will also prompt us to become laborers in our contexts. It will give us courage to go into the ripe fields of harvest: the university, the marketplace, and the world.

God is sending each of us to someone. Could we be the reason for the scarcity of laborers? If we would go as the seventy-two did, Jesus will accompany us into the lives of many.

God is looking for today’s John the Baptists, obedient, unashamed men and women. Who will prepare the way of the Lord every place they go? This is every Christian’s call. We who have experienced the goodness of God, and have the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, must earnestly feel the urgency to tell.

To whom is God sending you?

Before you pray for the people group of the day: Pray today and ask God to bring to your mind one person who is part of the ripe harvest field in your life. As God brings someone to mind, commit to having a conversation about Jesus with him or her very soon.

PRAYER FOCUS | BUDDHISTS THUMB

Buddhists are made up of 275 million people in 227 people groups with thirteen workers for every one million Buddhists. The search for truth is central to Buddhism. They believe that life is suffering and the cessation of suffering comes at the end of all attachment. The radical message of a God who is Truth, who is interested in a relationship with them. A god whose solution for suffering is a deep attachment to Him-needs to be shared with Buddhists.

- Pray for workers who understand the Buddhist world view and can effectively share truth in Buddhist contexts to be sent to them.
- Pray for Buddhist international students amongst us to find Jesus here and go back to their home countries as missionaries.
- Pray for the strongholds of religion to be broken and for the eyes of Buddhists to be open to the emptiness of their beliefs.
- Pause for one minute: Ask the Spirit of God how you should pray for Buddhists and pray as He directs.

RESOURCES:

- Go to chialpha.com/10.2 for more resources on prayer.
- Follow @WeLiveMissions on Instagram.
- Watch videos on Prayercast.com. It has excellent videos that will help you pray along with gifted intercessors from different people groups.
- **Unreached of the Day** app - Download and pray for a different unreached people group each day.



CHANGE THE WORLD

IT TAKES ONE MINUTE

What if we prayed earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into the harvest field?

Would you join a movement of students who pray for laborers at 10:02am or pm?



BE THE GENERATION

HEED HIS CALL

It is our responsibility to pray earnestly so that our world may hear the Good News.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

TEXT

"XAPRAY"
to
313131

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