



Praying to the Lord of the Harvest, LCMS World Mission, in collaboration with its North American and worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

Lesson 5—Send

Memory Verse: John 17:17-18 (ESV)

[Jesus prayed] *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”*

Connect: Describe a situation when you spoke with someone who speaks very little English? What were some of the feelings that you experienced in that cross-cultural situation? Why do you think you felt that way?

Study:

View Video

God is always looking out to love the _____.

- a) character of Nineveh
- b) Jonah’s resistance
 - his _____ wanted them destroyed
 - his _____ wanted them destroyed

In our sin we are looking to love _____.

- c) character of “Nineveh”
- d) our resistance to outsiders
 - our fear wanting them to be destroyed
 - our hatred wanting them to be destroyed

God continues to be a sending God.

- e) God sent _____ to you.
- f) God sent _____ to you.
- g) God sends _____ to outsiders.

Sent to Do Whatever We Can

- 1) Do you view the church primarily as a place of refuge where people support each other; or do you view the church primarily as a team sent out to bring the life-saving message of Jesus?
- 2) How is the church a little of both?
- 3) St. Paul writes, *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”* (1 Cor. 12:4-7). How is God using your gifts to serve others?

Sent Out to a Shaken World

- 1) St. Paul writes to Timothy, *“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”* (2 Tim. 3:1-5). How does Paul’s description match people today?
- 2) How do people have an “appearance of godliness,” but deny its power?
- 3) In this time of difficulty in which we live, how can the church be like a rescue boat?

Sent Out With a Purpose

- 1) Can you name your grandparents, your great grandparents, your great, great grandparents?
- 2) How long after you’re dead will people still remember you?
- 3) What kind of eternal legacy do you want to leave behind?
- 4) How does knowing that you are baptized shape your conversation and behavior?

The Sending Church

Luke describes the church in Antioch: *“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.: (Acts*

13:2-3). Pastor Keurulainen states, “*Sending churches are not possessive. They are willing to let go of some of their best leaders if it is the will of God.... Sending churches are not selfish about their resources. They are willing to share for the sake of the kingdom..... Sending churches do not seek to raise up members as much as they seek to raise up missionaries—those who live as Jesus did, with an awareness that they are sent*” (p.124). What would it take for your congregation to become more of a sending church?

Sent to Babylon or Jerusalem?

1) Pastor Keurulainen observes, “*Much of Israel’s life and history are spent living in Babylon more than in Jerusalem. They spend more time in an ‘unchurched’ city and culture than they do in a ‘churched’ one*” (p.127). How does the church today live more and more in the midst of a non-Christian society?

2) Jesus told the apostles, “*I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.*” (Matthew 10:16). Martin Luther wrote in the Large Catechism, “*Dear Father, we ask you first to give us your Word, so that the gospel may be properly preached throughout the world and then that it may also be received in faith and may work and dwell in us, so that your kingdom may pervade among us through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit....*”(The Large Catechism, the Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, p. 447.54). Martin Luther preached the gospel in the language of the people. What do you think the church communicates to those looking in from the outside?

3) What should we communicate?

4) In what “cultural languages” should the church be communicating today?

Send me

1) At his call, the prophet Isaiah had his sin removed: “*Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”* (Isaiah 6:6-8). Through what means does God remove our sin?

2) How might we respond to God’s forgiveness?

3) Pastor Keureleinin states, “*One cannot look at God without having a sense of one’s own unworthiness*” (p. 132). As a forgiven sinner living life at the foot of the Cross, how might your attitude and life reflect the sacrifice that Jesus endured for you?

Reach/Serve

Invite a teenager to lunch. If you are a teenager, invite an old person to lunch. Try to figure out what he or she is passionate about. How do teens view the world differently than Gen-Xers (those born between 1964 and 1978)? How do Gen X-ers view the world differently than the Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1963)? How do Boomers view the world

differently than the Silent Generation (those born between 1925 and 1945)? How might knowing how other people view life be an aid to connecting them with Jesus?

Offer

Sing or Say *Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling*.

Spend time in prayer



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, If you can - not preach like Paul,
3 If you can - not be a watch - man, Stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,
4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing, Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"
You can tell the love of Je - sus; You can say He died for all.
Point - ing out the path to heav - en, Of - f'ring life and peace to all,
While the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing And the Mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas - ter calls you; Rich re - ward He of - fers free.
If you can - not rouse the wick - ed With the judg - ment's dread a - larms,
With your prayers and with your boun - ties You can do what God de - mands;
Take the task He gives you glad - ly; Let His work your plea - sure be.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I. Send me, send me?"
You can lead the lit - tle chil - dren To the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.
You can be like faith - ful Aar - on, Hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.
An - swer quick - ly when He calls you, "Here am I, Send me, send me!"

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For Additional Study

Sent into a Changing World

In your opinion, how is our society different now than it was 40 years ago? How can we, as the church, engage in a meaningful conversation with those who are increasingly viewing the Church as being irrelevant and disconnected with the real issues of life? What do you think Pastor Keurulainen means when he states that, "...*there is the Wal-Mart mindset that creeps into the church*" (p.108)? The word "apostle" means "sent one." Do you consider yourself an apostle? Do you consider yourself a missionary? Why or why not?

St. Paul reminds the Ephesians, "*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do*

good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephes. 2:10). What do you think are some of the good works you’ve been prepared in advance to do? How would going into each day looking to do good works give a sense of possibility and purpose?