

Children and family talk for Sunday 3rd July 2022.

Good morning!

Which do you like to best; receiving presents or giving them? I love to get presents, but giving presents often can give me more joy, it makes me very happy to see someone else's reaction to a gift I have given them, first the surprise, and then the anticipation as they open the gift and lastly the smile as they find out what it is and then say thank you! God gives us gifts all the time and God loves to see our reactions too – we sometimes call these blessings. Today we are going to read about Jesus sending his followers out and the blessings that they gave and received.

Let's read from Luke chapter 10, verses 1-11 and 16-20.

Jesus Sends the 72 Men

10 After this, the Lord chose 72 others. He sent them out in pairs. He sent them ahead of him into every town and place where he planned to go. **2** He said to them, “There are a great many people to harvest. But there are only a few workers to harvest them. God owns the harvest. Pray to God that he will send more workers to help gather his harvest. **3** You can go now. But listen! I am sending you, and you will be like sheep among wolves. **4** Don’t carry a purse, a bag, or sandals. Don’t stop to talk with people on the road. **5** Before you go into a house, say, ‘Peace be with this house.’ **6** If a peaceful man lives there, your blessing of peace will stay with him. If the man is not peaceful, then your blessing of peace will come back to you. **7** Stay in the same house. Eat and drink what the people there give you. A worker should be given his pay. Don’t move from house to house. **8** If you go into a town and the people welcome you, eat what they give you. **9** Heal the sick who live there. Tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is soon coming to you!’ **10** But if you go into a town, and the people don’t welcome you, then go out into the streets of that town. Say to them, **11** ‘Even the dirt from your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. But remember that the kingdom of God is coming soon.’

16 “He who listens to you is really listening to me. He who refuses to accept you is really refusing to accept me. And he who refuses to accept me is refusing to accept the One who sent me.”

17 When the 72 men came back from their trip, they were very happy. They said, “Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we used your name!”

18 Jesus said to the men, “I saw Satan falling like lightning from the sky. **19** Listen! I gave you power to walk on snakes and scorpions. I gave you more power than the Enemy has. Nothing will hurt you. **20** You should be happy, but not because the spirits obey you. You should be happy because your names are written in heaven.”

Talk: We often read about twelve of Jesus' special friends, (disciples) but now we see how many special friends Jesus had. He is not sending out just twelve people to spread the word about God, but seventy-two! That's quite a lot of people! Jesus had a lot of followers, but

they weren't just people who dropped by on Sunday, they were prepared to follow Jesus, listen, and then go off and do as Jesus asked.

But what was it Jesus wanted them to do?

They were to go ahead of him, in pairs, and visit all the towns and villages Jesus intended to visit. They shouldn't stop on the way or carry lots of things with them, they had to rely on goodwill from those they visited, to feed them and give them shelter.

On each house they visited they would give a blessing of peace. Do you remember I said a blessing was like a present from God? If the present was received well, and they were welcomed, they could stay there and heal the sick people, and enjoy the food and drink, but if they were not welcome, and their blessings were not accepted, then they would need to leave and remind people that the kingdom of God would be coming soon.

How excited and nervous they must have been setting off on their adventure! And how excited they were when they came back and were able to tell Jesus all that had happened!

By giving blessings to the people they met, the disciples were blessed, and we are told they were very happy. We can get as much enjoyment from giving as we can from receiving can't we. And when we give people the good news about Jesus, and share with them, then we will be very blessed and very happy. Let's talk to God now.

In all we do,
in all we give and in all we receive,
we thank you, God, for your blessings.

Lord, bless our families, (*make a house shape using your hands*)
bless our friends, (*hug yourself*)
bless those who are suffering, (*make a sad face*)
bless those who have strayed. (*walk on the spot*)
Strengthen and enable us (*pull a muscle pose*)
to give out your blessings to all that we meet. (*shake hands*)

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)
The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)
Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here's a link for the children's sheet: [activity-sheet-3-july-2022.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-3-july-2022.pdf)

And here's a worship song from rend collective: counting every blessing: <https://youtu.be/w6Y91axwxfl>