

2021
JULY MISSIONS MONTH
CELLS ON A MISSION

MEMBER'S WORKBOOK



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STUDY 1

THE KING HAS CALLED US

LUKE 5:1-11



MISSIONAL PURPOSE

In Luke 5:1-11, the author transits away from the stories of Jesus' healing and teaching ministry to the recruitment of Jesus' first disciples. The gathering of disciples was not unusual in the second temple period as many rabbis would gather students around them to teach the Torah. But the kind of disciples Jesus selects is unconventional as they are not theological professionals. They were just fishermen, tax collectors, former revolutionaries, etc. Yet Jesus called them and renewed their lives for missions.¹ Hence, the question remains for us to answer: Has Jesus called you to be his disciple? If so, is your life renewed for missions?

¹ Darrell L. Bock, *Luke (The InterVarsity Press New Testament Commentary Series Volume 3)*, (Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP academic, 2010).



LUKE 5:1-11

English Standard Version (ESV)

¹ On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

⁵ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.



QUESTIONS

1. Who was present by the lake of Gennesaret? And what were they doing?

2. Do you think Simon's exclamation in verse 5, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!" was justified?

3. If you were in Simon's shoes, would you have complied with Jesus' instruction to "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."? (verse 4)

4. Has Jesus called you to obey him even when it does not make sense? Or will you obey him even when it does not make sense?

5. Why do you think Simon fell down at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (verse 8)?

6. What was Jesus' response to Simon's expression of "unworthiness"?

7. How can you be a "fisher of men?"

8. How did Simon, James and John respond to Jesus' call?

9. Is your personal response to Jesus' call of discipleship similar to that of Simon, James and John in verse 11? What areas of your life have you not fully surrendered to Jesus to fulfil the missions call of being fishers of men?



EVACUATION OF DUNKIRK

For this year's Bartley Christian Church's July Missions Month, we will be following the historical narrative of the Evacuation of Dunkirk.

Click on this video:

<https://tinyurl.com/JMMCG1>

On 26th May 1940, King George VI upon hearing the desperate plight of the Allied troops on Dunkirk declared a national day of prayer as he called on the entire nation to pray. Everyone, Christians or Jews, came to pray for the troops on Dunkirk. And later that day, the government launched Operation Dynamo which was the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk. A call for the requisition of civilian vessels to be used to ferry troops off beaches of Dunkirk across the English channel and into the United Kingdom. Of which 9 days later, a total of 338,226 people were saved. The operation was a success, and this allowed the Allied forces to reorganize their forces for the next battle which ultimately led them to victory.

This historical narrative shares a correlation with the Gospel message in the sense that our King has also called us to go and save souls in the same way Jesus called Simon, James and John to be "fishers of men."



REFLECTION

1. How can you respond to our King's call for you to go and save souls today?
2. Is there something you feel God is speaking to you today?
3. How can the Cell Group pray for you?

JMM APPLICATION

As part of this year's JMM, we have a line-up of workshops for you to engage in and learn some practical ways in which you can respond to the King's call.

1. Digital x Missions
2. 5 Ways to Engage in Global Entrepreneurship
3. The Gift of HOPE
4. Disciple-Making among the Beloved

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^{10b} And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:10b-11

STUDY 2

RELENTLESS: NEVER SETTling AT 'ENOUGH'

LUKE 5:1-11



MISSIONAL PURPOSE

The story of the paralytic man is not often used as a teaching point for global missions. We often use it to praise the persistence of the friends who seeing no way in through 'conventional' means, went in through the roof instead. And while their faith is and should be an inspiration to us, it is also an example of the extent to which we should go for our neighbour. Their faith is active, showing care, compassion, and friendship to someone who was excluded from both the financial and relational rewards of work. In their faith, there is no separation between being and doing. We often look at impossibly difficult situations and declare that the roadblock is too difficult. We might even claim that God has put that roadblock in place on purpose. This story teaches us to be relentless, not for our own gain, but for the salvation of others.



LUKE 5:17-26

English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁷ On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸ And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.

²⁰ And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home glorifying God.

²⁶ And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."



QUESTIONS

1. Compare and contrast the different accounts in Luke 5:17-26 and Mark 2:1-12. Are there any significant differences?

2. Put yourself in the shoes of the friends and the paralytic. You finally hear that Jesus, the miracle healer has returned to Capernaum. As the friends rush the paralytic over, they are crestfallen as they see the large crowds and packed house. It seems plausible and entirely reasonable for them to try another day. How did they respond instead?

3. What was Jesus' immediate response to the paralytic and his friends? Does it surprise you?

STUDY 2: RELENTLESS: NEVER SETTLING AT 'ENOUGH'

4. What was Jesus' follow-up statement after he forgave them their sins? Why did Jesus choose to first forgive their sins before healing him?

5. Name some ways that Jesus revealed his divinity in this story.

6. What was the response of the crowd?

7. Consider the actions of the friends who brought the paralytic man. How could you apply it in your life?



EVACUATION OF DUNKIRK

For this year's Bartley Christian Church's July Missions Month, we will be following the historical narrative of the Evacuation of Dunkirk.

Born in Lancashire in 1874, Charles Lightoller had already experienced a lifetime's worth of events by the time he took the position of Second Officer on board the Titanic in 1912.² Eventually, Lightoller and his wife set up a guesthouse and went into semi-retirement. In 1929, they purchased and did up a private 58ft motor yacht. They called it the Sundowner and it was because of this boat that Lightoller found himself taking part in another historical maritime event.

On 31 May 1940, 66-year-old Lightoller received a call from the Admiralty requesting that he sail the Sundowner to Ramsgate so that a Navy crew could use it as one of the 'Little Ships of Dunkirk' and sail to France to rescue the stranded B.E.F. and Allied forces. Lightoller agreed but on the condition that he would sail it with his son, Roger.

On 1 June, Lightoller, his son Roger and another young sailor set off for the beaches of Dunkirk. Twelve hours later the Sundowner, which had never carried more than 21 people before, returned to Ramsgate filled with 130 men crammed in. The motor yacht had picked up men from the destroyer H.M.S. Worcester as well as from other smaller stranded boats. Along the way, they'd taken fire from Luftwaffe fighters with Lightoller having to use evasive manoeuvres on countless occasions to avoid being hit. Not a single life was lost on board the Sundowner that day and Lightoller's actions became the inspiration for Mark Rylance's character in Christopher Nolan's 2017 WWII epic Dunkirk.

Charles Lightoller didn't just sit back when the call was given. He never sat back and let the waves of life carry him from one end to another. He was a man of action. When he received a call to serve as a 'little ship', he didn't hesitate. He put his faith into action and as a result saved hundreds of lives.

² "The Second Officer Who Survived Titanic and Saved 130 Lives at Dunkirk," *Sky HISTORY TV Channel*, accessed May 18, 2021, <https://www.history.co.uk/article/the-second-officer-who-survived-titanic-and-saved-130-lives-at-dunkirk>.



REFLECTION

1. How are you living out your faith in saving others?
2. Is there something you feel God is speaking to you today?
3. How can the Cell Group pray for you?

JMM APPLICATION

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¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man your sins are forgiven you."

Luke 5:19-20

STUDY 3

LAMBS AMONG WOLVES

LUKE 10:1-12



MISSIONAL PURPOSE

Prayer, Mission, Message, Urgency.³ These are words that are often associated with the commission that Jesus gives to the 72 he appoints. Prior to the Great Commission, Jesus gives his disciples a clear mandate. He teaches not just the what, but the how, and through his message, the urgency is clear.

³ "Lesson 49: The Crucial Message (Luke 10:1-16) | Bible.Org," accessed May 18, 2021, <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-49-crucial-message-luke-101-16>.



LUKE 10:1-12

English Standard Version (ESV)

¹ 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. 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. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not it will return to you. ⁷ 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. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ '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.' ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.



QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 10:1-24. In verses 1-12, what do we learn about the 72 followers and the purpose of their mission? How are they to prepare? What is their message? How will their needs be met?⁴

2. What do you think Jesus means in verse 3 when he says that he sends them out “like lambs in the midst of wolves?”

3. In verse 6, Jesus talks about a son of peace. Some Christian and missiological circles often use this term as an evangelistic method. What is your interpretation of this term?

4. In verses 10-12, Jesus speaks about rejection. What does Jesus tell the disciples to deal with rejection? How does this apply to us today? Is there a big difference to how we live our lives and preach the Gospel with how Jesus teaches here?

⁴ “The Seventy: Witnesses on a Mission,” *InterVarsity*, last modified July 9, 2010, accessed May 18, 2021, <https://intervarsity.org/bible-studies/luke-10>.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

1. PRAYER

Before giving instructions on 'going', Jesus first asked the disciples to pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest. Do you pray that the Lord of the harvest would send out more disciples and for the harvest to bear fruit?

2. MISSION

These men were sent out on a special mission. It's important to take note that while we are all commissioned by God to serve Him and His kingdom, not all of us are called to do what they did. After all, we are all commanded to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness.

3. MESSAGE

"The kingdom of God is near." What do these words even mean? If we say them now to our friends or colleagues, we would most likely get a quizzical look and stare. The kingdom of God is the realm where He rules. By proclaiming that his kingdom is near, we are declaring that the future is imminent. The time of his judgement is near.

4. URGENCY

We are not advocating forcing people to confess that Jesus is Lord. Ultimately, God and his Spirit is the one that moves and convicts people's hearts. But that does not make our mission less urgent.



EVACUATION OF DUNKIRK

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Both John Edwards and his cousin Llewellyn Lewis fought in the rearguard defence with the 1st Royal Welch Fusiliers (RWF).⁵ On 26 May Edwards and Lewis were far from the beaches of Dunkirk. They had been ordered to stand and fight "to the last round and the last man" in an effort to slow the German advance while others were evacuated. The 1st RWF fought at the small town of Saint-Venant and nearby villages, retaking bridges over important waterways. However, with the Germans still holding other bridges, the company was surrounded, suffered heavy casualties, and the final men were captured in an attempted breakout that night.

Edwards, Lewis and the other captured soldiers were marched towards Germany with little food and water and were eventually taken to Toruń in Poland. Edwards spent the rest of the war in captivity working as a PoW farmer. He returned to Britain in 1945 skeletal and unrecognisable to those who knew him. Lewis died in Stalag XX-A in 1941, aged 21.

To us in the future, history treats Dunkirk as a rallying call for success when it was in reality, a grave defeat. Unlike the men that successfully made it back home, some men like John Edwards and Llewellyn Lewis did not. It's a stark reminder that some men had to stay back and fight off the Germans to ensure that the majority of the Allies could make it off the beaches of Dunkirk. To these men, the mission was clear and urgent. There were no half measures. They could not simply fire a few rounds and retreat to safety. Very often, Christians dabble in missions. We go on mission trips once every 5 years. We sometimes give money to our missionaries. These men understood their mission and its urgency. They would need to fight with their lives to ensure that their friends could return home to their families.

⁵ "We Thought the War Was Lost': Readers' Stories of Dunkirk," *The Guardian*, last modified July 25, 2017, accessed May 18, 2021, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/25/we-thought-the-war-was-lost-readers-stories-of-dunkirk>.



REFLECTION

1. Out of the 4 points above (Prayer, Mission, Message, Urgency), which do you feel you need to work on more today?
2. As a cell, discuss how you can make some immediate changes to your lives to better carry out His mission.
3. How can the Cell Group pray for you?

JMM APPLICATION

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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. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves."

Luke 10:2-3

STUDY 4

WHAT WE ARE DOING IS NOT RIGHT

2 KINGS 7:3-9



MISSIONAL PURPOSE

Have you ever seen, either on television or in real life, a situation where some guy threw caution to the wind and rushed into a dangerous situation and came out a hero, or someone who took a huge financial risk and came out a multimillionaire? When they were being interviewed, maybe you heard them say, "I'm not brave - I was desperate! That was my best friend in that burning house! Of course, I ran in to get him!" Or maybe you heard the now fabulously rich man say, "I may be fortunate, but hardly courageous. Frankly, I was at a point where I had nothing to lose. You'd have done the same." Today we will be following the account of four lepers who acted selflessly and became heroes in a sense where they became bearers of good news to the whole nation of Israel.⁶

⁶ Glenn, "Nothing to Lose - 2 Kings 7:1-20", Shema, 25th October 2012.



2 KINGS 7:3-9

English Standard Version (ESV)

³ Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? ⁴ If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die." ⁵ So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there.

⁶ For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear the sound of chariots and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, "Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to come against us." ⁷ So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp as it was, and fled for their lives.

⁸ And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent and ate and drank, and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and went and hid them. Then they came back and entered another tent and carried off things from it and went and hid them. ⁹ Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; let us go and tell the king's household."



QUESTIONS

1. What threats was the nation of Israel facing? (Read 2 Kings 6:24-29.)

2. What options were the lepers considering? (verse 3-5) And which option did the lepers choose?

3. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to make a dire decision?

4. How did the Lord defeat the Syrian army? (verse 6-7)

5. How did the lepers celebrate?

STUDY 4: WHAT WE ARE DOING IS NOT RIGHT

6. Why did the lepers say, "We are not doing right" in verse 9?

7. Do you agree with the leper's reasoning that if they remained silent and waited, they would be in the wrong? (verse 9)

8. The author uses the word "good news" in verse 9 of which in Greek it is εὐαγγέλιον (euaggelion) which is translated in the New Testament as 'gospel' referring the good news of the coming of the Messiah.⁷ Have you ever remained silent, inactive, still⁸ or waited to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others?

9. Is there someone God is asking you to share the good news of Jesus Christ to? Take time to reflect and pray on whom God is asking you to share the good news of Jesus Christ to, and how you could share the good news of Jesus Christ. As Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach Jesus, and if necessary use words."

⁷ 2098. Euaggelion, Strong's Concordance.

⁸ The word "silent" in Hebrew is חָשָׁה (chashah) which is defined as "to be silent, inactive, or still." 2814. Chashah, Strong's Concordance.



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Please watch the following video:

<https://tinyurl.com/JMMvid4>

Military analysts and many historians who have reviewed the events of Dunkirk are baffled as to why didn't the German advance onto Dunkirk and claim their decisive victory while the Allied forces were most vulnerable. An array of reasons, from bad weather (as seen in the video) to the overconfidence of the German leadership were speculated. Nonetheless, what was clear was that God's hand was behind the operation as historians have called this account as the "Miracle of Dunkirk."

This historical narrative correlates with the Gospel message in the sense that when we, as "Little Ships", obey the call of our king to go and save souls, God will be with us and His hand will be upon us. In the Great Commission, Jesus himself said, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" in regards to our missional calling (Matthew 28:20).



REFLECTION

1. Do you believe that God will be with you as you fulfil your missional call through the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ?
2. Do we, as, as a cell group, believe that God will be with us as we fulfil our missional call through the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ?
3. Is there something you feel God is speaking to you today?
4. How can the cell group pray for you?
5. How can the cell group be praying for its missional calling to being that 'little ship'?

⁹ Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; let us go and tell the king's household."

2 Kings 7:9

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