

Call to action

Notes on the Bible readings

- The backdrop to this scene is Jesus' miracles of healing. The disciples have experienced incredible events. Jesus sent them out to mirror his actions: to heal and to preach. In doing this, he also commissions them, giving them authority over unclean spirits to cast them out, and to cure every disease and sickness.

- Jesus warns of the dangers that the disciples face, likening it to sheep facing wolves. But he assures them that they are to stand firm in the Father's protection and will be given the words to say from the Holy Spirit.

- As Christians we are called to mirror Jesus and the disciples, to 'Go out' into the world. But this passage reminds us that we don't do that in our own strength. When we do not have the words to say, the same Spirit of the Father that spoke to the disciples can speak to and through us.

Good news

Jesus told the twelve to 'proclaim the good news'. So, make some good-news cards. You will need blank postcards (or card cut to post-card size) and crayons. Design a card that includes just a few words to describe – or, if you prefer, an image to represent – one bit of good news that comes from knowing Jesus. Make the card colourful and exciting.

Consider who you might send the card to. You could post it to that person, or pop it though a neighbour's letter box – maintaining social distancing, of course.

Questions for reflection

- ▶ How does this image relate to your experiences of going away?
- ▶ What do you think gives us, today, Jesus' authority to go out and make disciples?
- ▶ When do you most feel like you are doing Jesus' work (particularly as 'going away' is not an option at the moment)?



A prayer of praise

*We unite with the whole world in praising you, creator God.
We come before you with gladness and thanksgiving.
We praise your goodness; we praise your faithfulness;
we praise your tenderness.
We are yours and we worship you.
We bless your name for ever. Amen.*

A prayer for others

Loving Lord, you call and equip us to serve you. Watch over those who risk their own safety by caring for others. Strengthen and protect all those who are persecuted for their faith in places where living a Christian life in peace is not allowed.

Loving Lord, you empower us to live out our discipleship. Give wisdom, imagination and the strength to persevere to those who face apathy as they seek to live out their discipleship.

*Loving Lord, you understand what it means to suffer for what is right. Give comfort and courage to those who are treated unjustly because of their faith, and indeed to all who suffer, whatever the reason.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.*

A personal prayer

Lord, may I know your guidance as I seek to be a faithful disciple in the places to which you send me. Amen.

Live your faith

When you pass or go through a doorway, think about being sent out by Jesus to share the good news – who could you share some good news with?