

## Call to action



Jesus gathered his twelve disciples and sent them out. He gave them these instructions:

'Don't go to Gentile or Samaritan towns. Instead go to the people of Israel, for they are like a flock of lost sheep. Tell people the good news about the kingdom of heaven. Cure the sick, raise the dead, heal those with skin diseases, send out demons. You have been given all this freely, for no payment. Now you must help others without being paid.'

Jesus reassured them, 'You won't need gold or silver, don't take a travelling bag or an extra shirt; don't take sandals or a walking stick. When you go into a town, find out who the good people are and stay with them until you are ready to leave. If you enter a home, bless it with your peace, but if it is not worthy, take the blessing back. If someone doesn't welcome you or they won't listen, leave at once, shaking the dust from your feet.'

'I am sending you out like sheep into a pack of wolves,' he said, 'so you need to be as wise as a snake and as innocent as a dove. Because of me people will hand you over to those in power and have you beaten. You will be dragged before kings and leaders. But if this happens, don't worry about what to say – you will be given the words at the time. It will be God's Spirit speaking.'

'Because of me there will be unrest in families,' Jesus said sadly. 'Brothers will turn against brothers. Fathers will turn against children. Children will turn against parents. Many will be hated because of me. But if you remain with me until the end you will be saved. If they persecute you in one town, run to the next. I promise that before you have been to all the towns of Israel, the Son of Man will come.'

### Glossary

**Gentile** the name Jews give to non-Jews; **Samaritan** a person who lived in Samaria and worshipped God differently from Jews. Jews and Samaritans hated each other; **demons** spiritual forces that trouble people – could be interpreted as mental illness; **Son of Man** a title from the Old Testament Book of Daniel, used by Jesus to describe himself.

## Jesus' friends go out to share all that he has taught them with the world.



### Think about it

- What was Jesus sending the disciples out to do?
- Have you ever had to do something that was very hard or that tested you?
- What have the disciples experienced and seen Jesus do?
- What is important about what Jesus said and did before he sent the disciples out?
- Why was it vital to the future Church that Jesus sent the disciples out? How does this affect our Christian life today?



### Create – Paint blowing

**You will need:** piece of thin card, watered down paint and a straw. Place some paint at the base of the card and then blow the paint through the straw. *Just like the paint spreads out, disciples (you and I) are being sent out. The air is the Holy Spirit.*

### Create – parachuting eggs

**You will need:** string, a white bin liner, sharpies, sticky tape, a paper cup. Make your parachutes and test it with an egg (could get messy). *Jesus sent the disciples out into the world. But what was the 'parachute' he gave to the disciples?*



### Create - Name plaque

Write your name in large letters on a sheet of card. Decorate with a range of craft materials and encourage them to decorate their name. *Use these in the prayer below*



### Talk about it

What makes a good shepherd? Place the words below under three headings:

Needs to be	Not needed	Can't be

Loud, good at maths, a good friend, quiet, confident, good communicator, strong, brave, likes animals, sacrificial, rugged, dependable, fit, loyal, scared of the dark, likes a daily shower, sensitive hands, squeamish, rich



### Create – Handprint sheep

Trace around our hand on paper and turn it upside down to decorate into a sheep. The palm will be the sheep's body, thumb the sheep's head and 4 fingers will be the legs. Glue cotton balls into the palm part to make sheep's wool. Decorate face with eyes or add sheep face as you prefer. *Jesus wants us to be like sheep who follow the good shepherd (what makes a good shepherd?)*

### Sing it



- This little light of mine - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKkbIZtqhyQ>
- Send me - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v0slqQ1eH8>



### Pray

God wants each of us to be his disciples. He calls...*(name)*

As you go, proclaim the good news: Jesus Christ is Lord, the kingdom of God is near **Amen.**

## Live your faith



Every time you go through a doorway this week, think about being sent out by Jesus to share the good news – who could you share some good news with?