

Peace to this house

 **Luke 10.1-11,16-20**

Jesus sent out 70 of his friends in pairs, to teach and heal people just as he was doing. He gave them instructions about what to do and warned them that it would not be easy. When they came back, they were very happy at what they had been able to do. They had helped to show people how God wanted them to live.

Now read **Luke 10.1-11,16-20** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Did you know that Jesus first sent out 12 of his friends, the ones we know as disciples, or the apostles? Then he sends out 70. His work was growing. It still is. Do you think he wants to send us to do his work too? What might that look like in practice?




During the week, get each person in the household to make a parcel with something simple at its centre, such as a sweet. Each day, wrap a new layer with a short prayer or message of hope placed in that layer. At the end of the week, play 'pass the parcels' – i.e. use all the parcels at the same time. You could invite friends and any visitors to join in. Ask people to read out the prayers/messages as they are revealed.



Where do you feel at peace or a sense of being blessed?

WATCH

The film *Pay it forward* (2000, ) tells the story of a teacher who challenges his young students to think of an idea to change the world for the better and then to put it into action. That is, to do something as if you were paying someone back for something they have done for you – usually someone you don't even know – but the 'pay back' comes first; hence 'pay it forward'. If you can, watch the film. Talk about how you could do something for someone else and how it would make you feel. What would you choose to do to 'pay it forward'?

Pray



Go for a walk to a local pond. If this is not possible, use a bowl of water. Drop a pebble into the water and watch the ripples move outwards. Imagine your prayers to be like the ripples, spreading out to the circles of people in your thoughts, each of whom will receive a blessing by your prayers. So, when you drop in the first pebble, pray for people in your 'first' circle – friends, family and neighbours. Drop in another and pray for people in your local area. Then another for people in the wider world. And so on.

COUNT

Draw large number shapes on a poster – 1, 2, 3... and so on. On each shape write something that you think of as a blessing or gift from God. As you write, think also of how you might share that blessing or gift with someone else. You could make an extra-large poster for the whole household. And you may need to count to more than 10!



Make a bookmark in the shape of a parcel to represent the gift that is God's blessing to us. Write 'May God's blessing surround you each day' (or similar) on the bookmark, and decorate it. As you are doing so, say thank you to God for all the good things you enjoy. Think of someone to whom you can pass on this sign of God's blessing.

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Jesus chose seventy disciples, and sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town. 'The harvest is plentiful,' he said, 'but the workers are few. Ask God to send workers into his harvest.' But Jesus didn't want them to think it would be easy. 'See, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves,' he warned.

So the seventy went on their way. Jesus' instructions were fresh in their minds: 'Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals. Don't speak to people on the way. When you enter someone's home, say, 'Peace to this house!' If there is somebody who shares in the peace, your peace will rest



on them; if not, it will come back to you.' He told them, 'Eat and drink whatever you are offered, because as a worker for the Lord, you deserve to be paid.'

Jesus instructed the seventy, 'Stay in the same house. If a town welcomes you, eat what you are given, heal the sick and say, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But if a town doesn't welcome you, go into the street and say, 'We wipe the dust of your town off our feet, as a protest against you. But know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' Jesus told them, 'Whoever listens to you, listens to me. Whoever rejects you, rejects me and the one who sent me.'

The seventy followed Jesus' advice and came back to him joyfully. They said excitedly, 'In your name, we have done amazing things. We even have power over demons!' Jesus replied, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. You have been given authority over God's enemy and nothing will hurt you. But don't rejoice because of this. Rejoice that because of your faithfulness, your names are written in heaven.'

Luke 10.1-11,16-20

Did you know?

- It was thought that people who were very disturbed or distressed had a demon inside them, changing their behaviour. We understand the causes of mental illness very much better now.

Luke 10.1-11,16-20 (NRSV)

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and

they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'