

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

## SSBC Luke Bible Study #35

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

Passage: Luke 10:3-20

Sermon Date: May 21, 2006

### Introduction:

When I was in the military, we would get deployment orders that would send us on missions. Those orders detailed where to go, when to leave, what equipment to take, what to do when we got there, how to communicate. Much planning and coordination had gone into these orders, and there was often wisdom in them that we couldn't understand at the time.

In this week's reading in Luke, we see Jesus handing out 'deployment orders' to 36 pairs of followers. Each was perhaps given one town to go to, along with some specific instructions about what to say and do as well as some warnings about things not to do. Together, these 36 missions would somehow help pave the way for Jesus as he resolutely headed toward his mission – toward his destiny in Jerusalem – toward winning our salvation.

As you study, imagine yourself being among them – hearing Jesus' instructions, going down dusty roads into friendly or unfriendly towns, telling people about the kingdom of God being near, and then excitedly reporting back to Jesus afterwards. But before you turn the page, 'report in' via prayer, asking God to enable you to hear and understand the 'marching orders' he has for you.

*This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to [www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/](http://www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/)*

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**Bible Study:**

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to make observations, write your question, etc.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.</p> <p><sup>8</sup> "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.</p> <p><sup>13</sup> "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>16</sup> "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."</p> <p><sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." <sup>18</sup> He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. <sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."</p>	

2. A number of towns are mentioned in this passage. Knowing their background provides clues to understanding the meaning of the passage. Use the cross references given below, as well as Bible study resources you may have, or the website [www.studyLight.org/enc/isbe](http://www.studyLight.org/enc/isbe), to research them and determine why these towns stand out as examples.

Korazin (Chorazin) (Matt 11:20-21)

Bethsaida (Mark 6:45-56, 8:22-26, Luke 9:10-17, John 1:44)

Capernaum (Matt 4:13, Luke 4:31-44, 5:17-26, 7:1-10)

Tyre & Sidon (Isa 23:1-18, Jer 25:15-17, 22; Ezek 26:1-6ff, 28:20-26)

Sodom (Gen 18:20-21, 19:24-25)

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

<b>Observation</b> What does it say?	<b>Interpretation</b> What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

<b>Application</b> How do I apply what it means?

**Look Closer:**

5. Look back at the towns listed in question 2.
- a. What do the first three towns in question 2 have in common? (consider Mt 11:20) How did Jesus regard them in Luke 10:13-15?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What did the second three towns in question 2 have in common? What did God decide to do to them and why (see OT verses listed)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What principle(s) can we take away from seeing how God interacts with those towns/peoples? (Luke 12:48 is helpful)
6. In Luke 10:2-11 Jesus gives the 72 disciples some very specific guidelines for the mission they were being sent to accomplish.
- a. Summarize what were they told to do and not to do.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What do you think this approach to ministry taught the disciples?

- c. How do these instructions relate to your own ministry? Can you apply them in your witnessing, serving, giving, etc.? How?

7. God writes down certain names. Read Exodus 32:31-33, Ps 69:28, Dan 12:1, Php 4:3, Heb 12:22-28, Rev 3:5, 20:12-15, 21:27.

- a. What does God say it means to have your name 'written in heaven'?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What's the standard for having one's name 'written in God's Book of Life' or 'written in heaven'? How does one get his/her name included?

- c. Do you think your name is written there? If not, consider the "Good News" box below. If you do, what are some specific ways you could rejoice about that more (as Jesus suggests in Luke 10:20b)?

**Good News!**

Jesus sent 72 of his followers out to tell people the kingdom of God was near. We have even better news to share today. Because of what Christ did for us, we now have a way to enter God's kingdom!

- We have all sinned and fall short of God's perfect standard (Romans 3:23)
- Therefore we deserve to be punished – even killed – much like Sodom, Tyre, and Sidon (see Romans 6:23)

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## Good News!

*(continued)*

- But God loves us and sent his Son Jesus Christ to take the punishment we deserve upon him. By dying on the cross, and then literally rising from the dead, Jesus created a way for us to have eternal life. (see Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 3:18)
- We can't earn our way into heaven – it can only be received as a free gift (see Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)
- But we must **receive** Christ and **believe** in him.  
"If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9).

Therefore we are to ask Jesus to save us. If you agree with this good news, pray right now to receive Jesus as your Lord – give him control of your life. Believe the truth – that you are a sinner, separated from God, that Jesus died on the cross to take away your sins that have separated you from God, and that you have now been saved! Amen!

8. The 72 came back rejoicing after having completing the mission Jesus gave them. Children of the living God can't help but tell others about him by sharing the good news – the gospel. Who can you tell about the gospel? Who can you love and serve and make sacrifices of time, comfort, and resources for in order to show them Jesus' love? What town can you go to? What house can you bring God's peace into? What will you do this week toward carrying out the mission Jesus gave you to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15)?

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. So **ask** God to send workers. And then **go** into your corner of the harvest field and preach the good news to all creation. And as you go, **rejoice** that your name is indeed written in heaven, where you will enjoy eternal life!