

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### LIVING FOR JESUS (MYSTERY STORY)

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#### Matthew 10:1-16 Jesus sends out the Twelve

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- A bag or suitcase

You will need:

- A simple drawing – see guessing game, Start It section
- Images of Jesus sending out his disciples <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/disciples-mission>
- A timer
- Some examples of prayers – see Pray It section)

## Start It

● **Say:** This week we continue exploring different Bible stories, and today's story is a bit of a mystery story involving Jesus.

**Ask:** Do you know any mystery stories? Do you have a favourite mystery story?

Play a guessing game involving a bit of mystery. Explain that the children are to draw a picture of something funny, interesting, exciting ... that happened to them this week. Show your own example. (Perhaps have a simple pre-drawn image of something that happened to you this week.) Ask if anyone can guess what happened.

Give the children a few minutes to sketch their drawing so they each have an image to share. Ask each child to share their images in turn and for the rest of the group to guess what happened.

## Sing It

This gentle worship song simply states our faith and beliefs:

'Little life (for you Jesus)' by Hillsong Kids  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lcgxg12EG\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lcgxg12EG_Q)

## Tell It

Use the Bible images, slides 1-9, to illustrate Matthew 10:1-16 (ICB)

Adapted from <https://ministry-to-children.com/jesus-sends-disciples-lesson>

● **Say:** Our mystery Bible story is set at a time when the twelve disciples had been following Jesus for a while. Jesus had decided it was time to send the disciples out to do his ministry without him. I think the disciples would have been very excited to do this but also very intrigued and perhaps worried, wondering what was going to happen next. How could they follow in Jesus' footsteps? What a mystery! To help, Jesus gave them some advice. As I tell

the story, I want you to think about how you would feel if Jesus was saying these things to you. Say: Our story begins with Jesus calling his twelve followers together. These are the names of the twelve apostles:

- Simon (also called Peter) and his brother Andrew;
- James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;
- Philip and Bartholomew;
- Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector;
- James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;
- Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. Judas is the one who turned against Jesus.

**Ask:** Have you heard any of these names before?

🗨️ **Say:** The twelve disciples of Jesus are famous now, but when they were alive on Earth they were ordinary people, just like you and me. And yet that was the type of person Jesus chose to follow him.

🗨️ **Say:** He gave each of them the power to drive out evil spirits and the power to heal every kind of disease and sickness. We might joke now and call them superpowers, but the Bible tells us it was the power of Jesus that they had.

**Ask:** What powers did Jesus give his disciples?

🗨️ **Say:** Let's continue the story. When Jesus sent out the disciples, he gave them this set of rules:

- Don't go to the non-Jewish people.
- Don't go into any town where the Samaritans live.
- Go to the people of Israel. They are like sheep that are lost.
- When you go, preach this: 'The Kingdom of Heaven is coming soon.'
- Heal the sick.
- Give dead people life again.
- Heal those who have harmful skin diseases.
- Force demons to leave people.

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus then said, 'I give you these powers freely. So help other people freely.'

**Ask:** Why do you think Jesus gave these powers to the disciples?

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus gave the disciples an important message to explain why they could do miracles – the kingdom of Jesus was starting! All these miracles made sure people heard the message. They also showed what kind of kingdom Jesus was planning – one without sadness.

🗨️ **Say:** Let's see how the story continues. Here are some more rules they had to follow:

- Don't carry any money with you – no gold or silver or copper.
- Don't carry a bag.
- Take for your trip only the clothes and sandals you are wearing.
- Don't take a walking stick. A worker should be given the things he needs.
- When you enter a city or town, find some worthy person there and stay in his home until you leave.
- When you enter that home, say, 'Peace be with you.'
- If the people there welcome you, let your peace stay there.
- But if they don't welcome you, take back the peace you wished for them.

**Ask:** How would you feel setting off on this mysterious journey?

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus wanted the disciples to trust God. They were telling people good news about Jesus and they had the power of Jesus to prove the message was true.

**Ask:** I wonder how people might respond when they saw and heard the disciples?

🗨️ **Say:** Many people still didn't believe in Jesus at the time, so Jesus said to the disciples:

- ➔ If a home or town refuses to welcome you or listen to you, then leave that place. Shake its dust off your feet.
- ➔ I tell you the truth. On the Judgement Day it will be worse for that town than for the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- ➔ Listen! I am sending you out, and you will be like sheep among wolves.
- ➔ So be as smart as snakes.
- ➔ But also be like doves and do nothing wrong.

**Ask:** Why do you think some people wouldn't want to hear about the good news of Jesus and believe in Jesus' power?

Consider the following questions:

- ➔ Do you believe God still does amazing things?
  - ➔ What 'powers' has Jesus given you?
  - ➔ What are the ways we can build Jesus' kingdom on Earth?
- 💡 **Say:** While we have been exploring the Bible together, we have thought about many different ways we can show Jesus' love and power. For example: when we live right; love others; help those who are suffering; and fight against unfairness and injustice.

## Action It

💡 **Say:** Jesus said to his disciples he would give them everything they needed for their journey with him. Jesus makes that same promise to us, but it can be helpful to have a few reminders when we are working our way through life.

Explain to the children they are going to play a game where they need to imagine they are going on a journey for Jesus. Their job is to help tell people about the amazing stories of Jesus: the miracles he performed; the love he showed to everyone; standing up for those suffering injustices and helping those who are suffering.

Give the children five minutes to go around the house and pack things for their adventure – but there must be a reason for everything they choose. Share some examples:

- ➔ I would pack my first aid kit to support those who need help.
- ➔ I would pack my favourite Bible story ... which reminds me of ...
- ➔ I'd take my wellies so when I'm battling through thick, squelchy mud and difficult situations, I am reminded Jesus is protecting me.

Ask them to grab a bag or suitcase, set the timer and send them off.

When they return, give the children time to share the things they have packed and their reasons for doing so.

Explain there may be many of these things which help us every day in our living for Jesus, and so this week when they see these tools and props they can try to remember how they can help them live for Jesus.

## Pray It

### Bedhead Prayer

Ask: What's the first thing you do when you wake in the morning or the last thing you do before you go to bed?

💡 **Say:** For many people this is a time when they focus their thoughts in prayer and speak with God. For our prayer time today, we are going to write a prayer we can place above our beds (you may need to ask a grown-up to help you stick it) which can help you connect with God first thing in the morning or last thing before you go to bed – or both.

Share some examples of prayers for children.

Give the children time to write their own prayer or to copy one of the examples. Encourage them to decorate their poster.

Ask the children if they would like to share their prayers with the others in the group.

## *Explore It*

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.