

Aim: to encourage Christians to keep on going with their evangelism, in both the good and the tough times.

Icebreaker (10 minutes):

- 1) In pairs, look one another in the eye. See who can keep their eyes open the longest without blinking, or laughing, or looking away. You could run this as a tournament, with winners playing each other until there is one person left!

or

- 2) Can you think of a time where you stuck at something that you felt you were failing at? What was the outcome?

Video (18 minutes)

Bible Reflection and Discussion (25 minutes):

- 1) Read Matthew 9:36-10:1. What do these verses tell us about Jesus's posture toward the crowd, and how does that prompt our own posture when we consider people who don't know Christ?
- 2) How does Jesus' compassion and sovereignty comfort us when friends or family reject him? How does this also challenge us in our concern for the condition of acquaintances or strangers?
- 3) How does the connection between the harvest and prayer reshape your view of evangelism as both God's work and our calling?
- 4) Compare "sheep without a shepherd" (v36) with Psalm 23:1-3 or Ezekiel 34:8. What deeper resonance does that give to Jesus's role?

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- 5) Notice Matthew 10:1's emphasis on authority (compare with Matthew 28:18-20). Why might Jesus grant authority over unclean spirits before sending the disciples out, and what does that teach us about persevering when we feel powerless?
- 6) How does keeping your eyes on Jesus's character rather than our own efforts fuel ongoing faithfulness in sharing the gospel?
- 7) Have you ever experienced a moment like the one Graham described where what felt fruitless actually ended up fruitful?
- 8) Think of one person you spoke to in the past about Jesus (a lot or a little), who seemed to reject him. Pray for them and ask the Lord to have compassion on them.

Dig Deeper (optional):

- 1) Read Matthew 16:18. What do Jesus's words show us about how the church grows?
- 2) The phrase "*gates of Hades*" evokes the stronghold or defensive entry of the realm of death. What kinds of spiritual or cultural "*gates*" might seek to block evangelistic advance today?
- 3) How does this verse affect your own confidence to keep sharing the gospel, even when you meet resistance?
- 4) How does knowing you stand on the shoulders of Christ-built witness over 2,000 years bolster your resolve to keep going today?

Leader's Guide

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Prayer (10 minutes):

- Thank God for his sovereignty, compassion, and example.
- Pray that the Lord of the harvest would use you in His work.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you to persevere in sharing the good news of Jesus.