



# For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

*10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <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. (Luke 10:1-4)*

These verses come from the gospel according to Luke, where he speaks of a much larger group of disciples going out to teach and minister on Jesus’ behalf. Whereas Mark limits the travelers to the Twelve, Luke speaks of 72 going on to the nearby villages. Perhaps Mark is emphasizing the 12 disciples previously mentioned in Mark 3:16-19, and Luke is speaking in broader terms to include Gentile lands. Regardless of the number, the instructions are very similar.

The disciples are to go to places that Jesus is about to visit. They are preparing the way, much like John did for Jesus (which may be one of the reasons that Mark includes the story about John’s death in the center of his “sandwich” about the disciples). Luke’s emphasis is on the harvesting and the need for more workers, which may be a message to his audience about the importance of a broader group of Jesus followers going out at the time of the gospel writing, most likely in the late 80s CE.

Their journey would not be easy, full of rejection and opposition. So, when we face challenges for our faith and how we live it out, we can remember that others have faced similar obstacles and assaults. Yet, God is with us.



## REFLECTION:

Think about a recent time when you faced opposition over how you lived or served Jesus.

## PRACTICE:

Make a chart of the pros and cons you go through as you serve Jesus. Pray about them.