

Aim of lesson

To appreciate the disciple's responsibility to preach.

Bible background

Matthew 9:35-38; 10

Outline of lesson

Go to the lost sheep

Read together Matthew 10:1-15. Ask the class to assume they are one of the twelve sent out. Get them write down one or two things they would say while preaching to the people. Ask all the class what they have put and collect their thoughts together on a blackboard or chart. Make sure they have told the people about Jesus. There is no need to add ideas of your own at this point as the class will need to expand it later themselves.

Preparation?

Discuss with the class how easy or difficult they found it to think of what to say. Ask how they think the disciples felt. How did they know what to do and say? Direct them not only to the instructions of Jesus already read, but also to the example of Jesus in Matthew 9:35-38. Ask what this example teaches about the motive for preaching (compassion verse 36) and the preparation for preaching (prayer verse 38). Point out the deliberate lack of preparation of practical things (Matthew 10:9-10). He had equipped them with all they needed; in this case the authority to heal. Ask the class how easy they would have found it to follow Jesus' instructions about taking no money, etc. (verses 8-15).

Questions

Ask the class now to put themselves in the shoes of a person in the crowd listening to the preaching of a disciple. What questions would they ask? Get them to write in their workbooks in speech bubbles, three questions spoken by the crowd. Ask each to read out one question at a time and ask the others how they would answer. Some of the answers can be added to the preaching already on the blackboard to make it more complete. Once you have completed your thoughts on your blackboard or chart, go through the questions in the student workbook and help them appreciate the importance of preaching. Discuss with them that preaching is not always an easy thing to do and how to gain experience and confidence.

Let the class unscramble the verse as the last thing to do in their workbook. It is Matthew 10:32.

Digging deeper

Preaching

This section investigates other ways of preaching: showing our faith, and how much we value it, by the way we live.

Relevance to our lives.

Ask the class to think during the week about how they could preach to their friends at school; what could they say and how would they feel? Encourage them to have a go at preaching and discuss it with them next week. Bring into the discussion their motives and preparation.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for reaching us with the good news of the kingdom. Help us to care enough about others to tell them too.

Other suggestions for activities

- The class could write a letter from someone in the crowd who heard the disciples preach, to a friend, telling of what they had heard.
- The words of Hymn 363 (Forth in Thy name) could be discussed.