



**LC STUDY GUIDE**  
**The Divine Invitation**  
 The Passage: Matthew 10:1-20  
 October 2-14

### Introduction

Our “Divine Invitation” series has had a two-fold focus – Going and Receiving. It’s crucial for all disciples to see ourselves as “sent people” and yet to be filled by the power of the Lord so we can flourish in our mission to others.

Today we look at Jesus’ teaching in sending The Twelve. By certain standards, they were not properly trained or resourced, and there were only 12 of them. Yet, Jesus sent them with a powerful message and with the power of His Spirit. Let’s consider what we can see in this passage and how we can apply it as we too are sent out.

### Matthew 10:1-20

<sup>1</sup>Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

<sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup>Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

<sup>9</sup>“Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts—<sup>10</sup> no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. <sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the home, give it your greeting. <sup>13</sup> If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

<sup>16</sup> “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup> Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. <sup>18</sup> On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup> for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

**O** – Take a few moments to read the passage again privately.

What part of the passage caught your attention? Which of Jesus’ instructions did you find the most personally challenging? And what excited you?

**O/I** – To whom did Jesus first send the disciples (vs. 5-6)? Why?

*(Jesus sends the disciples to Israel first for several reasons: One, because God is not yet finished with Israel. This was a specific moment of repentance before the message of Jesus would be extended to the Gentiles. Two, it’s not Jesus who rejects Israel, but Israel rejecting the will of the Father. And three, Israel was to be the hope of all the nations. This was their opportunity to be the light of the world.)*

**I** – What is the real message behind the miracles Jesus gives the disciples?

*(As amazing as miracles and signs are, their message is more about the authority and the power by which they are done. This was an announcement of the Kingdom. The disciples were proclaiming, “God is doing this new and amazing thing and it is in Jesus.” The signs and wonders were a confirmation to Israel that God was at work in this and it was being done in the power of the Holy Spirit.)*

**A** – If Jesus were sending out The Twelve in 2017 in the US, how do you think he would have said it?

For example, vs. 9-15 might have sounded like, “Don’t bring your credit cards, don’t check a bag, and don’t bother using Expedia. Rely on the kindness of strangers, sleep on their couches, and if someone doesn’t answer their doorbell, head to the next suburb ...” How can we contextualize this teaching to ourselves today?

**A** – Which of course, leads us to finish our time by asking, how can we apply Jesus’ sending of The Twelve to ourselves—how can we live as “sent people”?

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- a. Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting. Take some time to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best. Select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
  - b. Complement these questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?)
  - c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage participation. Avoid answering your own questions!
  - d. Application: Pace the study to conclude with difference-making application.
  - e. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching” rather than facilitating, causing people to feel distracted or de-powered.