



#share72

The Power of a Moment

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a Sunday School/Small Group Resource

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Each lesson in this series will contain the following components to help you prepare and deliver a quality Sunday School or small group lesson.



CHARGE: MOTIVATE

Set the stage for learning. Make an impact.



REWIND: EXPLORE

Explore background. Understand the context and set up the passage(s).



PLAY: EXPLAIN

Study the meaning of the passage and its component parts. Break down the text to understand the meaning of the text. **THIS IS A MAIN EMPHASIS FOR YOUR CLASS OR GROUP TIME.**



HELP: ENGAGE

Questions will be provided with most of the teaching points and in the application. Asking these will help you gauge how your students are processing the truth and help them engage with the passage.



PAUSE: ILLUSTRATE

Present the truth of the passage in a creative way.



FFWD: APPLY

Put the pieces together. Pack it up for your class or group to use throughout the week. **THIS IS A MAIN EMPHASIS FOR YOUR CLASS OR GROUP TIME.**



IMPACT: FOLLOW UP

Put the exclamation point on the study. Maintain an ongoing connection with students centered around the passage and application points.

LEADER PLANNING SHEET

Use this sheet to chart the course of your class/small group time. What needs to be said?
How will you say it? Where are you headed? How will you get there? Reproduce this page and use it weekly.

Date: _____ Name: _____ Class: _____

Lesson Title: _____

Scripture: _____ Focal: _____



BIG IDEA:



LEARNING GOAL:

What do we want the students to learn? How do we want them to respond to that knowledge?



MOTIVATE

How will we engage them in the lesson?



EXPLORE

Background:



EXPLAIN

What's important? What needs to be defined? What are the main points? Why does it matter?

1

2

3

4



ILLUSTRATE

How will I illustrate or demonstrate this Truth? How will I bring this scripture to life?



APPLY

What can our group do with this Truth? How will they use it?



FOLLOW UP

What can I do throughout the week to follow up and set the stage for next week's meeting?



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Leader Guide/Lesson Plan

Text: Matthew 9:35-38

-  Big Idea: Now is the time for us, as followers of Jesus, to tell others about Him.
-  Learning objective: That students will take the challenge to “go into the harvest” and share the Gospel with at least one of their friends (whom they have been praying for through 3x3 or 3151) in the 72 hours following the class or group time.

This lesson will challenge students to consecrate themselves and do the work of evangelism. It also presents a prime opportunity for the leader to share their salvation story and let students take the opportunity to do so. You may want to use this in Sunday school setting, small groups, or in a large group teaching time on a Sunday morning.

Motivate (5 minutes)

Say: What are some great moments in history you can think of? What about great moments in your own life? Did that great moment affect things long term? How?

What about for an eternity?

(Evangelistic opportunity: Leader take time to point out your salvation testimony and make students understand that theirs too is a great moment.)

Optional Visual/activity: Sound the Alarm

Sound the Alarm!

- Set a timer or an alarm clock for 10 minutes before the end of class.
 - Start the timer and challenge students to think about the fact that, by the end the class or group time, they will have the opportunity to take advantage of the moments in the days ahead to impact someone’s eternity by sharing the Gospel with them.
- (Note: at the end of class or group, when the alarm goes off, ask students, “Will you take what you have learned in this time we have had and share the Gospel with at least one of the friends you’ve been praying for?”)

Explore (2 minutes)

Background for the Book of Matthew

Author: Matthew, a tax collector who became 1 of the 12 disciples.

Purpose: To reveal Jesus’ true identity.

Notice in chapter 9 verses 9-12, Matthew’s calling. When Jesus said to follow, he immediately followed.

Genre: Gospel (including narrative, history, parable)

Audience: Primarily Jewish

Themes:

- 1) Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God
- 2) Jesus’ Kingship,
- 3) Kingdom of God (mentioned 32 times, exclusive to Matthew)
- 4) Jesus is the ultimate deliverer and fulfillment of the Old Testament
- 5) Jesus died and was raised to life
- 6) Jesus commissioned His followers to share the Gospel
- 7) Jesus’ followers are to be devoted to growth as disciples
- 8) Ongoing conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees showing new covenant verses the old covenant (Error of Pharisees versus Truth of Jesus).

Let's focus in on a portion of Matthew where Jesus continues to do ministry through teaching, preaching, healing, cleansing, and restoring.

Read Matthew 9:35-38

 **Explain (35 minutes)**
Jesus is continuing with His great Galilean ministry. Up to this point, the emphasis of Christ's work centered on His words of wisdom and His power to perform miracles of healing, to which the crowds responded with enthusiasm. However, the scribes and the Pharisees were growing evermore antagonistic against the ministry of Jesus. (See vv. 32-34)

But, Jesus presses on undeterred.

Read Matthew 9:35

"Then Jesus went to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness."

1. Let's take this outside!

"...all the towns and villages..."

Jesus has been traveling about, teaching and preaching and serving. He was going anywhere he could. He engaged anyone he could. There was nothing he was unwilling to do or anywhere he was unwilling to go.

 Does the Lord want you to go to somewhere or someone you have been unwilling to approach in ministry? With the Gospel?

Read Matthew 9:36

"When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd."

2. Well, would you look at that!?!

"Now when He saw the crowds..."

There was something about Jesus that piqued curiosity. The ministry, the Truth, Jesus' ability to live what he taught (Mt 7). Crowds are following. They are there, but the important thing was Jesus saw them.

 Do we see the crowds? How can we see the crowds?

"He felt compassion"

Despite Jesus' extensive ministry, many in Israel, no doubt even in Galilee, remained unreached with His message. Jesus' human emotions reflect a deep, gut-level "compassion" for the sea of lost humanity. Obviously, Jesus takes their condition to heart. The sorrows of the people have become His own sorrows. He feels deeply for them and is eager to help them. Jesus sees them as perishing. Jesus not only took the time to see them, but He had a response that was deep.

 What is our response to the crowds?

3. Have you seen these people?

“They were weary and worn out...”

The people had no one to lead them. No guide for their life. They were in need of someone to help, assist, heal, feed, care for, and protect even against and in the face of their own, self-initiated destruction. Many may have even been in the position they were in due to their own decisions and actions. Yet, as the text shows us, Jesus had compassion on them.

Perhaps, it's safe to assume that Jesus was standing on an elevated place, from this vantage point He could easily see the crowds coming to Him. They may be coming for physical healing or bringing the sick, but Jesus knows they lack peace. He knows that their greatest need is not physical healing, but spiritual. For years, they had been weighed down by the legalism and burdens of the Pharisees. Up to this point, their salvation had been hopeless. Their previous shepherds, the Pharisees, had abandoned them.

However, they do not escape the gaze of the true Shepherd. Jesus sees them fatigued, harassed, and helpless. His heart is full of sympathy toward them. They are unattended, unprotected, and unsought. They needed something or better said, they needed someone.

In the midst of such hopelessness, don't miss the beauty of the Savior's heart. The heart of our Lord is moved by loss. As a matter of fact, His mission can be summed up in this single verse, Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



Do you know people who are in need of a shepherd? Who are weary and worn out? Take time to list three of them... (Leaders: provide scrap paper or notecards)

Read Matthew 9:37

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.’ ”

4. It's hard to get good help these days.

“...the workers are few.”

In verse 37, Jesus directs the attention of His disciples to the harvest fields. One can almost see Jesus pointing to a coming multitude as He speaks to His disciples. The harvest is abundant, plentiful...there is enough to harvest. The lost multitude is the harvest field, precious souls in need of salvation. It was into this harvest field that the disciples were to go and labor. The great field needed immediate attention, and it still does today. All around us people are dying without Christ.

Statistics show, that a person dies every second. (4000 an hour/ 96,000 a day/ over 35,000,000 per year). Those numbers are hard to consider and even more difficult to bear when you consider the vast number of people who die facing an eternity without Jesus.

So, what is the answer to this horrific reality?

Read Matthew 9:38

“Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’ ”

5. Do work!

The problem? No workers. The harvest needs more workers.

How? How can you get into the work of the harvest?

“...’pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.’ “

The first step in addressing the need in the field is to pray to the Lord for workers. The second is to sign-up to be on the crew. Then, it’s time to do the work!

These words were to be taken to heart by the disciples. Jesus wanted them to look upon the fields of lostness and go forth, sowing, reaping, and praying that many more may be raised up to carry on this great work. There is a great contrast between the size of the field and the number of laborers. The field was plentiful, but the workers were scarce. It is for this reason that Jesus urges His disciple to pray.

Notice, the laborers are to be God-sent, not self-appointed. Many self-appointed laborers today do nothing more than confuse and scatter the sheep. The Pharisees were a great example of this. True laborers are men and women who love God and love souls. The need is great today. We need workers who have been sent into the harvest fields by God. If God does not send them, they may respond to some missionary appeal and go out, but when the heat of the day comes and the work becomes difficult, they will abandon the harvest and go home just as the false shepherds abandoned the flock that the wolves threatened.

True God-sent workers do not abandon the harvest or shrink from the battle when the fighting gets fierce. The prayer is that God will thrust out these kind of workers, laborers who will forsake their present comforts for the greater work of reaching the lost with the Gospel.

What more can be done? What is interesting at this point is that having instructed the disciples to pray, Jesus placed His disciples in the forefront of the laborers. In other words, the very ones who are to pray are the same ones who are to go (See Matthew 10:5). When we pray for laborers and when we are faithful to labor ourselves, we become the answer to our own prayers.



Will you do the work?



Illustrate (5 minutes)

What’s the work? To share the good news. Lead others to the shepherd.

Use this time to learn or review the One Great Hope Gospel conversation (or another that your church uses with students). Also, take time to instruct students how to have a GOOD NEWS conversation. Resources available by visiting skopos.org/share72

Apply (12 minutes)

It is Time!

When the alarm goes off, ask the students,

 Now, will you take what you have learned and share the Gospel with at least one of the friends you have been praying for (in 3x3 or the 3151 Challenge)?

-Take turns letting students share who they have been or will pray for to receive Christ. Take a couple of minutes to pray as a group for those names mentioned.

-Find a way (a bracelet, a bookmark, a sticker, or something) that will remind students of the commitment they are making to share Jesus in the next three days.

Follow Up

-Encourage students to participate in a Wednesday night *#share72 challenge* report service at the end of the 3 day sharing period.

-Send daily encouragement images to students who have taken the *#share72* Challenge. Available for download at skopos.org/share72

-Schedule baptisms of those who trust Christ. Plan discipleship follow up with new believers and a *#share72* group with them. Look for baptism follow up resources at skopos.org/baptism

Also, Look for upcoming discipleship and disciple-making resources from the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, ReConnect Sunday School, and the Skopos youth ministry office.

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