

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2015
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 12

Introduction: *Help your group to connect with the major theme.*

Take time to read and pass out the article from Desiring God, “What to Do with a Told Gospel”: <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-to-do-with-a-told-gospel>

After reading the article, begin your group time with a few questions to engage them in the session theme—Sent:

- What does 1 Timothy 3:16 say about Christ?
- What are we called to do?
- What does the article suggest is the problem?

Transition to prayer as you move into the session, asking the Lord to help us to be faithful to His calling on our lives as those sent into the world to share the good news of Christ.

Part 1: *Help group members grasp a concept.*

Ask your group to locate passages where Christ is specified as having been sent from God. Before your group meets, write out the Scripture citations on 3-by-5-inch cards and then pass them out as members of your group arrive. Divide up the following passages among your group according to its size:

- Hebrews 3:1
- John 3:17
- John 3:34
- John 5:36-38
- John 6:29
- John 6:57
- John 10:36
- John 17:3

- John 17:8
- John 17:18
- John 17:21

Why is it important that God the Father sent God the Son? How does Christ being sent affect us?

Part 2: *Ask your group to discuss Christ's call.*

The task of being sent seems overwhelming. In John 20:19-23, Jesus found His disciples hiding for fear of the Jews. Jesus, their leader, had been killed and they were fearful of their lives. On this occasion, Jesus commissioned His disciples differently than He did in Matthew 28:16-20. He started by expressing peace to them and then showed them His scars, John's account perhaps indicating that Jesus' scars are the source of peace for His followers. Finally, He commissioned and empowered them as sent ones.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." After saying this, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

Ask the following questions in light of the passage:

- What does this mean for us today?
- How are we called?
- What power is the Father sending us out with?

Part 3: *Check for application using a worship song.*

Download the song "Holy Spirit" by Jesus Culture. Ask the group to listen to the song, and while listening to the message of the song, instruct them to read John 14:26 and 16:5-11. Ask them to identify ways they have seen the Holy Spirit work

in their lives based on the passage. Give them time to write down on a journal sheet what they discover in Scripture.

After the song has played, thank the Lord for the Holy Spirit and the His presence in our lives. Allow 1-2 group members to share how the Spirit has worked in their lives specifically.

Conclusion: *Challenge for application.*

Ask the group to voice one way the lesson has challenged them to live differently as those being sent. Then instruct your groups to break up into groups of 3-4 people and pray together about their next steps as those Christ has sent into the world with the power of His Spirit. Do what you can to ensure that these specific groups come back together periodically to see how they are doing on mission.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Take time during the week to study one new teaching approach and then use it the next week as you prepare the lesson. If you are an auditory learner, use a kinesthetic experience, or if you are a kinesthetic learner, use a visual approach. Just try to step out of your typical box of styles and preferences. Doing so will hopefully serve as a bridge to others in your group that will encourage them to engage more in the lesson. For more information on learning styles and approaches, read “Why Learning Styles Are Essential for Groups”:
<http://www.biblestudyinsider.com>.