

# THE MISSION OF JESUS

## EPISODE 2: MAKING DISCIPLES

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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#### Main Points

*Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:*

- Because Jesus wanted to spread his message far and wide, he needed messengers who would join him in his work
- In the gospels, he called these messengers his *disciples*
- Jesus did a lot of work with the crowds, but his most strategic work was to train a few disciples who would continue his work once he was gone
- Are you and I part of the crowd that follows Jesus around or are we disciples who are learning to join him in his work?

### EXPLORING THE STORY

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#### ◀ Look Back

*Before diving into this week's session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:*

##### 1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

##### 2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

##### 3. Review

Quickly summarize where we've been before moving into this week's story:

“ **Last week...** we learned that part of Jesus' mission was to proclaim that God's kingdom was arriving and to call people to repent and become a part of it. One of his main parables was about a sower who went around casting seed on the ground. The sower got different results based on the type of soil his seed landed on. The *sower* was Jesus and the *seed* was his message. The *soil* represents those who hear the message. People respond differently to Jesus' message based on the type of soil they are: the path, the rocks, the thorns, or good soil.

## ▲ Look Up

Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.

### 4. Setting the Stage

“ Jesus was a popular figure. As he traveled, much of his work was with the public: teaching, healing and even feeding great crowds of people. But the entire time he was carrying out this public work, he was also training a small number of disciples. These disciples were always with him, even when the crowds had left and gone home. The disciples traveled with Jesus and he taught them the “secrets of the kingdom” – his message and his mission.

As we read these stories, be thinking about these things:

- How did Jesus train his twelve disciples?

### 5. Read **John 13.34-35** and then discuss:

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- Who is Jesus speaking to in these verses?
  - What is his *new command* for his disciples?

### Read **John 17.1-26** and then discuss:

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- What is the work Jesus was given from the Father that he claims to have accomplished? (v. 4)
  - What else had the Father given Jesus according to verse 6?
  - Who is Jesus praying for in these verses? (vs. 6, 9)
  - Throughout this chapter, Jesus lists all the things he did to disciple the men he had been given. Name as many as you can.
  - How does Jesus see the disciples continuing his work after he has gone? (vs. 18-20)
  - Why does this matter to you and me today? (vs. 20-21)

## ► Look Ahead

Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.

### 6. Implications and Applications

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- Are you part of the *crowd* around Jesus or are you a *disciple* who is learning to join him in his work?
  - Who is *helping you* grow as a disciple of Jesus?
  - Who are *you helping* to grow as a disciple of Jesus?
  - What is the next step you will take this week to obey what you learned from tonight's lesson?

### 7. Closing Prayer