

### **THE CALLING: Luke 5-6**

- \* Jesus went fishing with Simon, James, and John. After providing the miracle of a huge catch Jesus said “Don’t be afraid, now you will catch men.”
- \* Jesus tells Levi the tax collector to follow Him. Jesus dines with Levi and tells the religious leaders, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”
- \* Jesus displays a creative way of teaching by speaking parables.
- \* They witness Jesus challenge the established religious leaders, giving them a sense they were a part of a significant movement of change.
- \* They witness Jesus’ amazing healing powers as he restores a man’s shriveled hand.
- \* After a night of prayer, Jesus confirms their calling. He picks the 12 from the crowd and designates them as his apostles.
- \* Jesus delivers the Sermon on the Mount giving them a clear picture of a new way to live. “Blessed are the poor,” Love your enemies,” Do not judge others,” “Live out your faith.”

### **THE BUILDING: Luke 7-8**

LUKE 7: Jesus provided them with opportunities designed specifically to build their faith. He exposed the 12 to critical teachings about faith, salvation, and repentance.

- \* Jesus heals the servant of a Roman Centurion and says “I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”
- \* Jesus raises a boy from the dead in the middle of his funeral procession.
- \* Jesus’ eases John the Baptist’s doubts. “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus tells John that he is the one.
- \* Jesus accepts the worship of a sinful, but repentant woman. He forgives her sins, setting the stage for the religious conflict to come.

LUKE 8: Jesus allowed the Disciples to observe him on the front lines of ministry. They saw Him heal people and raise people from the dead. He calmed a storm with a verbal rebuke. They learned how to treat people by watching the way Jesus interacted with those who society shunned with love and compassion.

- \* Jesus allows women to follow along his journey as he taught and preached.
- \* Jesus tells the parable of the four soils and explains to the disciples that “The knowledge of the kingdom of God has been given to you.”
- \* Jesus calms a raging storm with a verbal command causing them to ask “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.”

\* Jesus sends demons from a man into a herd of pigs, displaying his power and authority over evil forces.

\* Jesus heals a bleeding woman.

\* Jesus goes to the house of Jairus. He takes Peter, John, and James in with him. They get to see him raise a child from the dead. Their role as the “inner three” is cemented.

### **THE SENDING: Luke 9**

Jesus begins turning his ministry over to the disciples. He gives them opportunity to grow by serving. Jesus sends them out to do ministry together, then calls them back for a time of debriefing. The disciples participate in the miracle of the meal for 5,000. He rescued them when they failed, stretched them spiritually and taught them many important lessons.

\* Jesus gave them power and authority to do His work and ministry.

\* He sent the disciples out with nothing, so they would have to rely on others and their faith in God’s power.

\* Upon their return, they met up with Jesus for debriefing and some time together away from the crowds.

\* This time is interrupted by thousands of hungry followers. When the disciples want to send them away, Jesus replies, “You give them something to eat.” They are to be hands on in this miracle; not just witnesses.

\* Jesus reveals his impending death for the first time, laying the foundation for them to understand the need for them to take over.

\* Jesus takes Peter, James, and John onto the mountain to sit in on a meeting with Elijah and Moses.

\* Upon returning from the mountain, the remaining disciples failed to cast out a demon. Jesus rescues them by stepping in. He lets them know he is disappointed in them. What a great teaching moment for them! They were to depend on God, not their own power or processes.

\* Jesus instructs them to listen closely. He then tells them again that he will be betrayed and killed.

\* The disciples argue over who will be the greatest. Jesus cuts this ridiculous talk short by grabbing a child and saying “For he who is least among you all – he is the greatest.”

\* Jesus tells them that whoever is not against them is with them.

\* James’ and John’s tempers get the best of them and they want to destroy a city for not welcoming them. Jesus rebukes them and they go another way.

\* Finally, a lesson in the price you have to pay to follow Jesus. You must give up comfort and security. You must put Jesus even before your own family.