

Series: Some Assembly Required

Scripture and Background Information for January 17 - 23.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we'll be looking at **Matthew 9:35-38**. After Jesus called his disciples, he took them on a journey, modeling ministry for them. In Matthew, we see Jesus presenting the Kingdom of God in word and deed by traveling around. In our text today, we see how Jesus includes His disciples in His ministry.

Background for:

After Jesus' great teaching section (chapter 5-7), we see Jesus healing the people while on his mission to advance the Kingdom of God. Our text functions as a transition point in Jesus' ministry.

Jesus, being on his mission trip, in advancing the kingdom of God, travels through villages. He teaches, preaches, and heals the people. Looking at the people, Jesus saw their condition. It is remarkable that Jesus' ministry was not driven by cold doctrine, but by compassion for people. Jesus then compared the people with a picture of agriculture. He saw the people ready for the message, as the harvest on a field. Seeing the harvest as ready, Jesus saw his mission as an urgent mission, but there is a problem. The harvest is ready, but there are only a few workers.

- How can we learn from Jesus' reaction in our text? Look at the actions of Jesus. What did he do, what did he see, what did he feel?
- Seeing the crowds, Jesus was driven by compassion. How did Jesus see the people?
- What is the motivating factor of Jesus to send out his disciples?
- Seeing Jesus and his compassion for the people, what do we need to accomplish Christ's ministry in our life? What does Jesus want from us in engaging with people?
- How does compassion look like in our life? How can you help your community group feel the same as Jesus did?

Note: Jesus did not a "one-man" show. The condition of people awoke compassion in Jesus. Driven by compassion, He sent His disciples to spread the gospel of the Kingdom. As he sent His disciples, so are we sent to reach those who are still in need. Don't believe the lie that people are not ready to receive Him. As a follower of Christ, Jesus sent you as a worker for the harvest (Mt 28:18-20).