



## SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“The Patriarchy of the Kingdom” (Matthew 10:1-4)**

Date: **September 29, 2019**

Last week, Jesus had compassion on the crowds because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. He told his disciples to pray earnestly that God would raise up more shepherds to care for the sheep. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. In this week’s study, Jesus is going to begin raising up shepherds by appointing his 12 disciples and giving them authority in his kingdom. We will see that these twelve men are not the wisest or the wealthiest or the strongest of men. They are an ordinary, unimpressive group of twelve men that God would use to build and advance his kingdom in miraculous ways. As we study the passage this week, we will learn that the kingdom of God doesn’t triumph because it’s full of strong people. It triumphs because it has a strong King. The kingdom of God doesn’t go forward because we have money, abilities, and resources. It goes forward because we have Jesus. He is all we need.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

### Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 10:1-4 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
  - a. Before Jesus commissions his twelve disciples in verse 1, he called them *to himself*. Why is this significant? What implications does this have for those called to ministry?
  - b. Read Acts 4:13. How does this relate to the first part of verse 1?
  - c. What is significant about the number “twelve” in verse 1? (Hint: see Genesis 49, especially verse 28)
  - d. By designating 12 apostles, what kind of a statement is Jesus making about his kingdom? (see Luke 22:30)
  - e. What kinds of activities does Jesus call these twelve apostles to do in verse 1?
  - f. The apostles were not able to cast out demons and to heal sickness until Jesus gave them the power and authority to do so (v. 1). What does this teach us about our dependence upon Christ in church ministry?



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- g. The twelve disciples are referred to as “apostles” in verse 2. Why is this significant? What does the word “apostle” mean?
- h. Why is Peter mentioned ‘first’ in verse 2?
- i. Read through the list of the twelve apostles in verses 2-4 and write down any observations you make about them.

### Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. The apostles had to spend time with Jesus in order to be effective in the ministry he called them to. Why is that? How does fellowship with Christ lead to spiritual power? Can you think of other scriptures that speak to this truth?
3. If we seek to work for Christ without first cultivating a relationship with him, what will happen? Will we be effective in ministry? Explain.
4. The twelve apostles were unimpressive, imperfect people. Many of them lacked a formal education. They weren’t rich and powerful. They were rather ordinary. Why do you think God still called them and commissioned them to build his kingdom? How does this encourage you?
5. We too have been *sent* into this world to build Christ’s kingdom. What does that actually look like? How can we practically seek to build his kingdom in our every day lives?