

Bible reading Matthew 9:35-10:8,(9-23)

Keep it simple

THIS WEEK WE EXPLORE HOW WE TELL GOD'S STORY THROUGH SHARING OUR OWN.

This week, questions we might ask after reading the Bible passage are: How do we share our story in light of God's amazing transforming story? How do we keep it simple and inviting to those around us? How can we, together, be labourers in God's harvest?



CREATE

You will need: coloured felt, scissors, glue, card. Think of a story about how God has been part of your life, or a Bible story, and make a felt picture of it. In the film *Trolls* [U], Princess Poppy puts her felt creations into a book so she can pass on to her children the incredible story of how they were saved from the Bergens and could live in harmony. How might you pass on God's story, and the good news of Jesus, so that other people might be saved and live in peace?

This week (22 June) we mark Windrush Day – a day to acknowledge the sacrifices and contributions of the

EXPLORE

Windrush generation (who arrived in the UK 75 years ago) and celebrate British Caribbean communities today. Find out more about those in your community who are part of, or descendants of, the Windrush generation. You could talk to people you know or do research on the internet. Could you organise a party with appropriate music, food, etc.?

LISTEN



Listen to 'The story I'll tell', by Maverick City Music ft. Naomi Raine. As you do so, draw a timeline on a large sheet of paper, starting with when the oldest person in your household or family was born. Mark significant dates and events along the line right up to the present day. In particular, mark times when any of you saw God at work. This is an image of how your story fits with God's bigger story. Thank God for this and pray for opportunities to share God's story with others.
<https://youtu.be/zjY26wzFm2U>

Bible notes

Matthew presumably tells us about this mission of the Twelve so that his readers have models as we share the good news about Jesus. There are three things to note: first, they are called to spend time at his feet watching and learning. Second, he shares his authority with them (v:1b); it is his work and he will be with them (vv:7-8). And thirdly, the mission is urgent – the harvest is ready (9:37-38) and it will spoil if it's left. What Matthew offers next is not a blueprint for mission, but some key principles, hinging on verse 16: the need to think carefully about what we're doing because this is not a risk-free enterprise. Here he talks about methods – where to go, what to do and how to live. So, he tells them to start local (vv:5-6): the Twelve should start on their home patch and not go to regions beyond Galilee – i.e. learn how to do mission among people who speak their language. Then he says that mission is a mixture of works and words (vv:7-8): Jesus sends us to get alongside people in their needs, hopes and aspirations so that they can see, through what we do and say, what Jesus could do for their lives. Then he tells them to travel light (vv:9-10). Jesus calls on us to trust two sources for our support: God and the kindness of strangers. Finally, he says hospitality might come from many sources, but we should seek out those who appear to be open to our message. If there's openness there, you'll know it, says Jesus; so stay, accept their hospitality and share your life and the good news.

First impressions

- Can you remember a time when someone shared a significant story with you?
- How is God revealed through the sharing of stories?
- What part of your faith story might resonate with others when you tell it?



A prayer of petition

Amazing God, your story is written on paper, etched in our minds and on our hearts, enacted in our living and our loving, and displayed in our words and our deeds. We adore you and we want others to do the same; but first they need to hear your story and how our story touches your story. We want others to know you as we know you. We know you love each and every person; may telling our story reveal that truth to those we meet and greet in every part of our lives. **Amen.**

Write

Spend some time quietly, on your own, writing 'God's story and my story' (however you choose to interpret that) in the form of a short piece of spoken word, five lines long. The first words of each line are:

- I believe...
- I know...
- The truth...
- Jesus is...
- My story...

Write just a few simple words to complete each phrase. There is no need for rhyme or any set form; do it as feels right to you. Get some friends or members of your household to do this too, then share your writing with each other by reading it aloud.