

Teaching Notes- Mark 6:6-13

For a one-hour, interactive, inductive study using a manuscript of the text.

Note: the key to this study is to have the group generate questions based on and flowing out of the text, then spend the bulk of the time answering the questions together. In this way you interpret the text as a group. Then the teacher summarizes the main points, and leads the group in processing (“applying”) the passage.

Note: These notes are only SUGGESTIONS. It is very important for you to develop your own study, and practice it before leading it at Urbana!

1 minute- Introduction to the Study

- **context:** In Mark 3:13-18 Jesus had appointed the twelve disciples to be “with Him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority...” The Twelve follow Him and see Him teach with power and perform great miracles. Our passages comes after a series of stories dealing with fear, faith, and the authority of Jesus.
- **For Urbana:** Yesterday at Urbana we saw God’s seeking love as He comes to us even in our sin and rebellion and brings us back to Himself. Last night we saw the culmination of God’s seeking love in the unique, suffering savior, Jesus. Today we will see how Jesus forms a community of ministry and gives us the call and power to serve Him in the world.
- **Intro. to how to enter the text:**

Creative idea: Pretend you are a disciple writing in your journal before you go out? (after Jesus’ instructions but before you actually go). What are you feeling and anticipating? What questions would you have?

OR

Review three ways to enter a text:

1. Find the specifics by answering the “newspaper questions” – who, what, when, where, how?
2. Find relationships or “connections” in the text. Are there words or phrases that repeat? That are similar? That contrast? A cause that leads to an effect? Mark them.
3. Put yourself emotionally into the story. Become a character in the story. What are you seeing, feeling, smelling, experiencing?

5 minutes. Pray, and give them time for personal study, using the ideas for entering the text you have just told them. Also, tell them to write down questions they might have: “As you are reading and studying the passage, write down any questions you may have that jump out at you from the text. Is there anything that interests or intrigues you? Anything you don’t understand?”

15 Minutes. Share observations and questions together. Just note the questions as they share them, don’t work at answering them yet. Keep this part lively.

20 minutes- (the heart of the study!) Walk through the passage again and answer in sequence the main questions that they had. Work on answers together from the text. Here are some of the main questions we hope they come up with, and some possible answers.

Question	Possible Answer
Why does Jesus send his disciples out two by two?	He is creating a community of witness and ministry, not just individuals. He sends them out “in community,” by twos, so that they can support each other, encourage each other, and learn to ministry together as a team.
What are some of the meanings or implications of the “authority” that Jesus gives the disciples?	When Jesus called them in chapter 3 He gave them “authority” over unclean spirits. For the past few chapters in Mark He has demonstrated His loving, serving authority over nature, sickness, and the demonic. Now He sends His disciples out to follow in His way of ministry— humble, servant authority.
Why does Jesus tell them to take nothing for their journey?	He wants them to trust Him and not depend on outward devices or the power of money. They were not a very dazzling group! Also, they had to depend on the people they went to. They truly went as servants, dependent on God and even the people they were going to minister to.
If He sent them out with nothing, why does he tell them to take a staff and wear sandals.	Taking all of Jesus’ instructions together in this passage, His disciples actually looked like prophets or, even more so, like shepherds. The staff was the basic tool and sign of a shepherd (i.e. Psalm 23:4)
Why the emphasis on staying in one place?	A major cultural value in the Middle East, then and now, is hospitality. People showed their respect for others by inviting them to stay in their homes. This would help the disciples see who was for them and who was against them. Also, the disciples would have the time to “disciple,” to invest in, the people they were staying with. Finally, there was the practical advantage of everyone in the town knowing where to find the disciples so they could come and talk to them.
Why the emphasis on shaking off the dust on their feet against people who do not welcome the disciples?	As hospitality was a major cultural value, so to not let a person stay in one’s home was a major rejection of them and what they stand for. The disciples were to deal with the rejection of them by showing that the people were really rejecting God, and incurring God’s judgment. Also, in giving this instruction, Jesus was preparing his disciples for the fact that many

	would reject them and their message.
What are some of the important things Mark is trying to teach by summarizing the way he did in the last two sentences?	These last two sentences, which summarize the mission of the 12, could be seen as a short description of the whole ministry of Jesus' people, His Church. The disciples "proclaimed that all should repent." They preached the Gospel verbally. They "cast out many demons." They helped people spiritually. They "annointed with oil many who were sick and healed them." They also took care of people's physical needs. Total ministry to total people—their need for the Gospel, their spiritual needs, and their physical needs. That is what Jesus' people. then and now are supposed to be involved with, and doing as He empowers us.
What are the main points of tension in this story?	The tension, or the paradox, between Jesus clothing His disciples with His authority and yet sending them out as poor, humble shepherds, dependent on God and even the people they minister to. He is actually creating little versions of Himself, little Jesuses, to go and minister.

5 minutes- Summary:

Jesus has called the Twelve to Himself in chapter Three. Now He sends them out two by two to minister-- but in such a strange way. He gives them His authority, the authority of God Himself, yet He sends them out looking like poor shepherds and in total dependence on God and on the people they are going to. He tells them to take advantage of the hospitality system of the time and stay with people who will welcome them. They do go out, and perform the three fold ministry of the church— preaching the Gospel verbally, helping people spiritually, and ministering to physical needs with God's power. They are little Jesuses!

10 minutes- Process/apply. (Don't "skimp" on this time!!)

POSSIBLE application questions, depending on where God is has been leading the group as they see the main points of the passage. Pick no more than two:

What would it look like for you to minister like Jesus? How can you appropriate His authority and power? How can you care for others with His humility?

Think through your daily life, and ask yourself if there is anything that you really do by faith. What are you really depending on God for? What in your life would collapse if God does not come through for you?

Think about your fellowship group or church. How are you as a group reflecting Jesus priorities in ministry: how are you as a group embodying His power and His humility as you minister to others?

How are you as an individual or a group carrying out these three priorities: how are you preaching the Gospel verbally to those who need to hear? How are you caring for people's spiritual needs for growth and wholeness? How are you caring for their physical needs? If you get a chance to meet with your fellowship group or church during Urbana, you may want to discuss these important issues.