

Family Lesson

Big Idea: The Church has a mission to reach the world.



Bible Story: John 4:35-38

- We've been learning that God loves the world, Jesus died for the world, and the Holy Spirit helps us in the world! Today we're learning that WE have a mission to reach the world!
- One day, Jesus was traveling and he stopped in a town. Jesus was tired, so he sat down by a well. A woman came to get water, and Jesus talked to her!
- Jesus told the woman about God's love. The woman was so happy! She believed in Jesus!
- Then the woman ran back to her town. She told EVERYONE, "Come meet Jesus! Come hear what he says!"
- And you know what? EVERYONE came! Lots and lots of people from the town came to meet Jesus!
- Jesus looked at all the people coming and smiled. Let's read what Jesus said to his friends.
- **Read John 4:35-36.**
- *"Don't you say, 'Four more months, and then it's harvest time'? But I tell you, open your eyes! Look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest right now. Even now the one who gathers the crop is receiving pay. That person gathers a crop for eternal life."*
- **Let's read more! John 4:37-38 says:**
- *"Here is a true saying. 'One plants and another gathers.' I sent you to gather what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work. You have gathered the benefits of their work."*
- Jesus was saying, "Look at all these people! They're ready to hear about God RIGHT NOW! Don't wait—tell them!"
- Jesus said telling people about God is like a harvest. Do you know what a harvest is? It's when you pick vegetables or fruits from a garden when they're ready!
- Jesus said lots of people in the WORLD are ready to hear about God's love—like a harvest that's ready to be picked!
- And Jesus said something else! Jesus said some people do one job and other people do another job! Some people plant, and some people gather! We all work together to tell people about Jesus!
- And Jesus said WE can tell them! We can tell people about Jesus! We can tell people in our neighborhood! We can tell people everywhere!
- The Church—that's all of us who love Jesus—has a mission to reach the world! We can tell others about Jesus!

Discussion Questions

- What is a harvest?
- Who did Jesus say is ready to hear about God's love?
- What are some ways we can tell people in the world about Jesus?
- Who is someone in your world you can tell about Jesus?
- Why do we sometimes think we should wait to tell people about Jesus instead of doing it now?
- How can some people "plant seeds" while others "harvest" in reaching the world? Can you think of examples?
- What are some practical ways you can participate in the Church's mission to reach the world this week?

Prayer

- Dear Jesus, help us to tell people about You. Help us see who needs to hear about Your love. Amen.

Family Activity

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the glass jar, water, and food coloring to complete this object lesson. Follow the directions below:

- **Hold up the cup of water.**
 - Say: "What do you see?"
- **Add one drop of food coloring.**
 - Say: "I'm going to add just one small drop."
- **Do not stir. Let kids watch.**
 - Say: "Is it changing right away? What do you notice?"
- This is like how God works.
- When we pray, show kindness, or tell someone about Jesus, we don't always see something happen right away.
- Every small thing we do matters. Some people plant seeds. Some people help others believe. God makes it grow.
- We are part of the Church, and **The Church has a mission to reach the world.**