

Matthew 10:1-15
International Bible Lesson Study Hints
for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. What kind of authority did Jesus give to His disciples?

Authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction, to raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons. He gave them the authority that He had to do what He did.

2. Why do you think giving them this authority was important?

Perhaps so His disciples could show that the kingdom of heaven was drawing near, and as the King in the kingdom of heaven Jesus had the authority and power to give this authority and power to others, especially to His ambassadors or representatives. To prove that their teaching about Jesus as the coming Messiah was true, and He was King over the whole universe and all created beings.

3. Why do you think Jesus told them to go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel?

Because in the very beginning they would understand people like themselves the very best, and this was partly a training mission for them. They would be speaking to those who expected the Messiah to come and who knew the Law of God, to people who were prepared the best to receive the good news of Jesus, and who should have welcomed the good news of Jesus with gladness. Later, with the help of the Holy Spirit, they would use Jesus' example and teaching to reach out and bring the good news of salvation to Samaritans and Gentiles.

4. What were the disciples not to acquire as they preached about Jesus? Why do you think Jesus commanded them to avoid doing this?

They were not to acquire money or wealth, gold, silver, copper or things of value. They had received the authority and power to help others freely and without paying for it, and what they had received freely they were told to give freely to others and without payment. To show that they were not preaching and healing selfishly for their personal benefit to get rich (for the authority and power Jesus gave them had great value), but they were doing these things because Jesus loved them, and they loved those He had commanded them to serve. However, those who heard the gospel or received healing were to meet the personal or real needs of the disciple. In 1 Timothy 5:18, Paul wrote: “For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’”

5. What would you consider a worthy house or family to be, then and now?

A family that tries to love, honor and obey God; a family that loves and serves others with honesty and integrity as Jesus would want them to do.

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