

As they followed him around, Jesus's friends heard what he had to say about following God and taking care of people and even loving their enemies. And they saw him heal people who were sick and share meals with people who were outcasts in their society. Some of them might have travelled with him for more than a year! Even with all they saw, though, I wonder how they felt when Jesus told them it was their turn.

He was planning a trip around to some of the towns a little further away, but before he set out himself he told his followers that it was time for them to see what they could do to spread the Good News. "The harvest is ready," he told them, "but there aren't enough workers!" He wanted them to pair up and travel to an unfamiliar town; when they got there they were supposed to go up to a random house and knock on the door. When someone answered, they should bless the house and hope that the people who lived there would invite them to stay. If the household and the town welcomed them, they would heal the sick and tell everyone about God's kingdom.

I bet that sounded a little scary to them! And even worse, Jesus told them not to bring any food or money or extra clothes along with them. They'd have to trust God and the people around them to give them what they needed. But they did it. And from what we read, they were super excited by what happened! When they got back to Jesus they told him how they'd felt power to heal and help people: "even the demons obey us when we use your name!" they told him.

Now, I'm not saying you need to go knocking on strangers' doors hoping they'll invite you to stay with them. But just like Jesus told his disciples that in order to follow him they needed to start making the world a better place themselves, we here at Reservoir Church want to remind ourselves that we have to do our own work to make God's kingdom real on earth. That's why one of our core values as a church is "Action". We want to be kind to people and solve problems and make wrong things right.

I wonder how many times you've noticed someone who's feeling sad, or seen something happen that just doesn't seem fair. When you go over to comfort someone, or jump in to stand up against unfairness, you're acting to make the world a better place. Sometimes that's easy—you're a kind person and want to help! But it can also be hard. Sometimes you might be afraid of what other people will think, or you might not know the sad person that well so you wonder if they really want your help. Maybe you have an idea for a nice thing to do for someone, but you can never find a really good time to do it.

Sometimes when I think about big ideas like "action for God's Kingdom" it can be pretty overwhelming. But at the end of Jesus's story in the Bible, after he died and came back to life and just before he went away into heaven, he was talking to his friends. "Do you love me?" He asked Peter. "Then take care of people." That's our part of God's plan... we can handle that, right?

Wondering Questions

I wonder what's the last time you were able to do a kind action?

I wonder if you ever tried to do something kind and it ended up making things worse?