

## Praying on Mission

### *Matthew 9:35-38*

- 1) Jesus goes everywhere on his mission (v35). What is his message and who is it for? How is it similar or different from our mission?
- 2) "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them..." (v36).
  - a. When do we find it easy to have compassion on those who do not know Christ?
  - b. When do we find it hard?
  - c. How does the Holy Spirit help us to grow in compassion?
- 3) Without Jesus as the Good Shepherd, people are 'harassed and helpless'. They are tangled in thorns and surrounded by wolves. What sort of wolves and thorns do we see surrounding people who do not know Christ? (e.g. Worldly wisdom? Spiritual oppression?)
- 4) As Christians, we still need the constant supervision of the Good Shepherd to protect and restore us sheep.
  - a. How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your life and the lives of Christians around you, protecting and restoring the flock?
  - b. We also need Under-Shepherds (Acts 20:28-29). What roles do these play in the church? How can you practically pray for and support them in their role?
- 5) Verses 37-38 describe a harvest field.
  - a. Explain to each other what this picture is about: What does the field represent? Whose field is it? Is it the right season for harvest? Who are the workers? Who sends workers into the field?
  - b. Many Christians read this passage and feel guilty that they do not work hard enough. Rather than 'Try harder!', what is the specific command from the Lord in verse 38?
  - c. How can this command liberate and encourage us as we seek to serve him?
  - d. Obey his command and do it now! Be specific in your prayers, remembering those who are harassed and helpless, and knowing the Holy Spirit prays with us.