

Life Group Lesson Outline

Jesus loves CA (week 4)

Date of sermon given: October 11th, 2026

Icebreaker (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: Encourage fellowship and set a comfortable tone.

Example Questions:

- What is your high and low for the week?
 - What are some things that gave you joy this week?
 - What are some things that gave you sadness this week?
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Lesson / Discussion (30-40 minutes)

Opening Scripture Reading: Matthew 9:35-38

Theme = In this message Pastor Sam explores Jesus's ministry of proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and highlights His deep compassion for people who are "harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd." He explains that because Jesus views the lost as a plentiful harvest, He calls His followers to move beyond indifference and actively pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers. Ultimately, believers are challenged not only to pray earnestly for their surrounding communities, but also to allow themselves to be sent out as active participants in God's mission.

Question 1 = Jesus looked at the crowds and saw people who were "harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd." Where do you most clearly see people around us today feeling overwhelmed, exploited, or lost, and how can we cultivate eyes to notice them the way Jesus did?

Question 2 = Pastor Sam contrasted the exploitative leadership of the religious authorities with Jesus's genuine, heart-moved compassion. How does experiencing Christ's personal compassion for your own struggles change the way you view and treat difficult people in your life?

Question 3 = Jesus tells His disciples to earnestly pray for laborers because the harvest is plentiful. Why is praying for our community considered a "dangerous prayer," and how does stepping into that prayer often lead to God calling *us* to act?

Question 4 = As part of the "Jesus Loves California" campaign, the church is emphasizing intentional prayer and practical engagement in the local community. What is one practical step or relationship in your daily routine where you feel called to be a "laborer" and share Christ's love this week?

Reflection / Prayer = Take some time to pray for each other and our church.

Prayer Requests (10-30 minutes)

- Invite group members to share prayer needs. It would be good for the Leader to start this sharing time.
- Close with prayer, praying for each request. (if they are comfortable, rotate who prays for the group)

• **Leader Notes** [Space for personal notes or reflections]

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