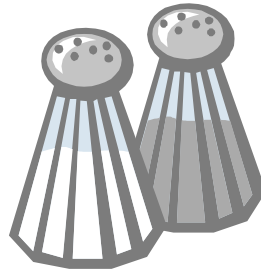


SPICE RACK®

E-Curriculum



by Mark DeVries

“WHO ME?”

Matthew 9:35-10:42

THE BIG IDEA: God calls every Christian to be a minister.

I. Engaging the Brain

A. Plaster the Walls

1. Before the group arrives today, take each one of these occupations and write them on a different sheet of paper and tape those pages randomly around the room on the walls.

Actor	Teacher
Sports Hero	Coach
Musician	Child Care Worker
Accountant	Factory Worker
Banker	Construction
Lawyer	Pilot
Doctor	Engineer
Plumber	Mortician
Minister	

2. When the group comes in, give each person two different sets of sticky dots (post-it notes would work fine too), four of each different color dot.
3. Explain that, as class is gathering today, you want them to place their dots in this way:
 - a. **Color #1:** They will place their dots on the vocations they would *least* like to have.

- b. **Color #2:** They will place their dots on the vocations they would *most* like to have.
4. Have some music playing in the background as the group places their dots around the room.
5. Process Questions
 - ➔ **Look around the room and tell me what these dots tell us about our group.**
 - ➔ **What are some of the jobs you would least want to do?**
 - ➔ **(If it is true) Why is it that so few of you would want to be ministers?**

B. Interrupting with the Gathering Rituals (Announcements, Attendance, First-Timers, Class Traditions)

C. Trick Questions

1. Drawing Groups



- a. Divide the group into teams.
- b. Give each team a few crayons and a large sheet of paper.
- c. Give each team one minute to draw a picture of a minister.
- d. Before they begin drawing, invite the group to ask questions to clarify the instructions.
- e. After the drawings are done, have the groups present their masterpieces.
- f. Process Questions
 - ➔ **Based on the drawings you just completed, what does a typical minister look like?**
 - ➔ **Do you think there is anything we are missing in these drawings?**
 - ➔ **How many ministers there are on a typical Sunday morning in church?**
 - ➔ **Who are they?**
2. Once you get typical answers, explain that **every** Christian in the church is called to be a minister of some kind. Therefore, on any given Sunday morning, there are likely 100's of ministers gathered together in our sanctuary.

D. Go Around Check In: Your Partner in Crime



1. Move the group into a circle.
2. Starting with the person in the group most closely related to a minister, go around the group, having each person answer this question: *If you were about to go on a dangerous adventure, what one other person would you want to have with you and why?*
3. Process Questions

- ➔ How did you decide whom you would have go with you on a dangerous adventure?
- ➔ Would any of you rather take the adventure alone rather than go with someone else?

II. Igniting the Heart

A. The Text

1. Find What Still Applies
 - a. Give everyone a copy of the text for the day, Matthew 9:35-10:42.
 - b. Depending on your preference and the make-up of your group, the class can either do this exercise individually or in small groups.
 - c. Introduce the text by explaining that it contains Jesus' instructions to his first disciples as he sends them out.
 - d. Explain that you want the group to read through this story asking one question: *What are the things in the text that still are true today for those whom Jesus sends out? In other words, which of his instructions apply to any of us who choose to follow him today?*
 - e. Invite the group to ask questions to clarify the instructions.

2. After the group has had a few minutes to find those instructions from Jesus that still apply to us today, ask the following process questions
 - ➔ Which of Jesus' instructions still apply to us as disciples today?
 - ➔ Which instructions would you say don't really apply to us today?
 - ➔ If you had been one of Jesus' first disciples, how would you have felt after receiving these instructions?
 - ➔ What do you think about the creativity of Jesus' marketing plan? If you had been one of the original disciples, would you have thought it would work?
 - ➔ You may have noticed that the list of Jesus' disciples is clearly in pairs. Why do you think Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs and not alone?
 - ➔ One of Jesus' disciples is a zealot (a person committed to the overthrow of the Roman government). Another is a tax collector for the Roman government. How well do you think they got along?
 - ➔ Do you think Jesus still calls really different people to work alongside each other?
 - ➔ Have you ever seen it work?
 - ➔ As you look around our church, are we a collection of people who are basically the same or are we radically different like these two of Jesus' disciples?
 - ➔ In verse 5, Jesus puts a specific target on the ministry of the disciples. What is it? And why do you think Jesus limited their ministry in this way?

- ➔ Why do you think Jesus told them not to take anything but the clothes on their backs?
- ➔ Are there any parts of Jesus' instructions that make you uncomfortable?
- ➔ Are there any questions that Jesus' instructions make you want to ask?

B. Magazine Madness

1. Pull 10-20 great magazine photos of groups, ideally mostly pictures of young people.
2. Story-making Small Groups



- a. Have the group move into teams of two or three.
- b. Give every team a magazine picture.
- c. Explain that the groups have three or four minutes to come up with a story about someone in the picture who has been sent by God to be a minister to the group he or she is pictured with.
- d. You might want to give an example with one of the pictures answering these questions...

1. Which person in the picture is the disciple?
2. What is his or her name?
3. Tell a little about his or her personality.
4. What kinds of things does he or she do as Christ's representative for this group of people?

- e. After the groups have come up with their stories, ask them to report their stories to the larger group.
- f. Process Questions

- ➔ Have you ever thought of yourself as a representative of Christ at your school?
- ➔ How well prepared do you feel to represent Christ?
- ➔ How well prepared do you think the disciples felt?
- ➔ If Jesus were here, what reasons would you give him for why you can't really be his representative at this time in your life?
- ➔ Can you think of anyone you know who sees himself or herself as Christ's representative at school?
- ➔ How would your interactions and activities at school be different if you really believed that God had sent you to your school for a purpose?

C. Case Study: The Public School Boycott

1. Read the following case study to the group:

Nashville, Tennessee—Calling public schools “godless” and “anti-Christian,” T.C. Pinckney, a former vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is encouraging parents to home school their children or send them to private schools.

Pinckney's resolution proposing a public school pullout was rejected by the SBC's summer meetings because it seemed too radical. The resolution stated: "Just as it would be foolish for the warrior to give his arrows to his enemies, it is foolish for Christians to give their children to be trained in schools run by the enemies of God." (Associated Press, Quoted in Group, September 10, 2004).

2. Process Question

- ➔ **Based on the text we have been looking at today, what do you think Jesus would think about this resolution?**
- ➔ **Do you think that students who go to public schools are more likely to have their faith negatively impacted than those who are home schooled or go to Christian schools?**
- ➔ **What impact (if any) do you think it would have on public schools if all Christians pulled out of those schools?**
- ➔ **If the American public school system collapsed, would that be a good or a bad thing?**

D. Case Study #2: A Little More Personal

1. Read the following case study to the group:

You have just graduated from high school, and for the last few months have felt a strong pull toward taking a year or two to serve as a missionary before going to college. An opportunity has come up for you to teach English for two years at a school in Kenya, and you really want to go.

You have been accepted to college, but everything you have paid is refundable, and you are allowed to defer starting college for two years. You go to your parents to talk about your idea.

2. Process Questions

- ➔ **How do your parents react?**
- ➔ **Why might even Christian parents react negatively to such an idea?**
- ➔ **How would your friends react?**
- ➔ **How would you decide if this really was something God was calling you to do?**
- ➔ **Would God expect you to disobey your parents if they told you that you couldn't go?**

E. Journal Sheet



1. Distribute journal sheets and pencils.
2. Give the group 2 minutes to complete their sheets.
3. If time permits, move the group into their previously arranged small groups and let each person pick a question he or she would like to hear answered by his or her group.
4. For each selected question, ask each person to give his or her answer, starting with the person in the group who picked the question.

5. Process Questions

- ➔ If God called our group to serve him in a foreign country, how many of us do you think would be willing to go?
- ➔ Do you think Jesus ever call anyone to follow him alone?

III. Taking It Home

A. Candid Interviews

1. Before class today, video tape a variety of adults and children in the church (10 or so would be appropriate), asking them, “How many ministers do we have in our church?”
2. Play the video for the group.
3. Process Questions
 - ➔ What happens to a church that sees “ministry” as the exclusive responsibility of those who are paid by the church?
 - ➔ If we wanted to change this perception, how might we try to accomplish such a thing?

B. Final Instructions

1. Invite the group to imagine that Jesus is sending them out tomorrow to represent him at their schools and homes.
2. Ask them each to write a letter to themselves from Jesus, a letter in which he gives them instructions and information about what they can expect.
3. Invite the group to ask questions to clarify the instructions.
4. Give the group 2-3 minutes to write their letters.
5. Process Questions
 - ➔ Was that a pretty tough exercise?
 - ➔ What kind of instructions did you get?
 - ➔ What’s the possibility you will be trying to follow these instructions this afternoon and tomorrow?

C. Pray for those who will be sent out to represent Christ.

↓ JOURNAL SHEET BELOW ↓

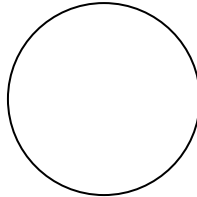
JOURNAL SHEET

Matthew 9:35-10:42 "Who Me?"

1) Is there a difference between a convert to Christianity and a disciple of Jesus? What's the difference?

- a convert knows the facts; a disciple knows the person.
- a convert is a new Christian; a disciple has been a Christian a long time.
- a convert is focused on receiving from God; a disciple is focused on serving God

2) Imagine your life as a pie chart. Shade in the part of the pie that represent territory in your life that Jesus currently occupies. Has the shaded part grown larger or smaller over the past year?



3) Tomorrow if Jesus sent you out as a minister, which of these clever disguises might he put you in?

- a friend
- an athlete
- an average, everyday normal student
- a leader of a Christian group on campus
- a thug
- a cheerleader
- a brain
- someone who can make people laugh
- something else: _____

4) If someone wanted to carry Jesus to school, what is one thing that person could do to cultivate a sense of God's presence in such a way that it would be contagious to those around him or her?

5) Which would be harder for you: representing Christ at your home and school or representing Christ in a foreign country as a missionary? Why?