

**WORD-SHARE-PRAYER**  
**For personal and small group study**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**READ:** Matthew 9:35-10:5a (Motivation)

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup>Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." <sup>1</sup>He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil<sup>[a]</sup> spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. <sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions... NIV

**REFLECT:** What does Jesus see in the lives of the people in the crowds that motivated him?

List at least three things he asked his disciples to do as a result?

**RESPOND:** How will you apply one insight from this text to your own life?

**REQUEST:** Jot down prayer requests that you and others may have.

**Word-Share-Prayer for Ministry Teams**

Word-Share-Prayer (Read-Reflect-Respond-Request) is for use with small groups, committees, ministry teams, and boards. The texts are deliberately a bit short so that committees and teams with limited time can still ***"be the people of God before doing the work of the people of God."*** For small group meetings, a longer section of text may be used or just more time spent discussing each segment.

For many team and committee meetings, we follow a 7-7-7 format - 7 minutes for individual Bible Study, 7 minutes to share one insight per person and 7 minutes to pray for one another. If we use these sheets for a regular one and one-half hour Bible study, then the biblical passage could be a bit longer and our schedule would be the ***Word***-30 minutes, ***Share(sharing)*** of lives (blessings and prayer requests)-45 minutes and ***Prayer***-15 minutes.

For a ministry team/committee allow 7-7-7 minutes (plus or minus) format. If the group is larger than 12 to 14, you may find it easier to break into groups of four, at least for the sharing of prayer requests and praying for one another.

1. Give every person 5-7 minutes to work on it in silence (we don't have people do them as "homework" since many will fail to do so).
2. Spend another 7 minutes or so asking people to briefly share one insight. If the group is larger than 14, break into groups of 4 to save time.
3. Ask for one-sentence prayer requests. Spend more time on this if someone in the group is in real distress about something. Otherwise, just a sentence or so per person as we want to lift one another up but haven't the time for more sharing... unless we are willing. Teams are often willing to spend more time in this Bible study portion of the meeting simply because we will work to be more efficient in the rest of the meeting.

Pray for one another out loud by name, giving everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

Hope this is useful for you... praying for you and your congregation to experience the transforming presence of our Lord in new ways.

With joy - Stan