

GATHERING FOR THE HARVEST:

A LOUISIANA MISSIONS STUDY

ADULTS

PURPOSE:

To understand our call to participate in God's harvest through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering, responding to Jesus' command to go into the fields ready for harvest.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 9:35-38, John 4:34-38, Mark 1:38 (CEV)

OPENING ACTIVITY (5 MIN)

HOMETOWN HARVEST

ICEBREAKER:

Have everyone share what crops their Louisiana hometown is known for OR the most satisfying thing they've ever "harvested" (literal or metaphorical).

DISCUSSION (15 MIN)

UNDERSTANDING THE CALL TO GO

READ MARK 1:38 (CEV):

"Jesus replied, 'We must go to the nearby towns, so that I can tell the good news to those people. This is why I have come.'"

CONTEXT:

Jesus had been successful in Capernaum but insisted on moving to other towns despite disciples wanting him to stay.

DISCUSSION:

1. What does this verse reveal about Jesus' mission?
2. Why did Jesus feel compelled to move beyond his successful ministry spot?
3. How might this challenge our approach to ministry?
4. Why do we get comfortable in our "Capernaum" rather than going to nearby communities? When do we do this?

DISCUSSION (15 MIN)

THE PLENTIFUL HARVEST

READ MATTHEW 9:35-38:

1. How does this connect with Jesus' statement about why He came?
2. What motivated Jesus to travel from town to town?
3. What problem does Jesus identify in the harvest?
4. How might Jesus' command to pray for workers apply to Louisiana missions?

HARVEST FACTS (15 MIN)

LOUISIANA'S HARVEST FIELDS

READ JOHN 4:34-38

DISCUSSION:

1. What might we see if we truly "open our eyes" to Louisiana's needs?
2. How does Jesus' urgency connect with his statement in Mark 1:38?
3. What "nearby towns" might Jesus be calling us to today?
4. What does "one sows and another reaps" mean for collaborative ministry?

LOUISIANA HARVEST FACTS:

1. 4.6+ million people, many in communities underserved by a gospel witness
2. 1 in 5 residents live in poverty, creating opportunities for compassion ministry
3. Diverse cultural landscape: Cajun, Creole, rural, and urban communities
4. Recurring natural disasters creating ongoing ministry needs
5. Rural church decline while new communities have no church presence

GEORGIA BARNETTE (10 MIN)

FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE

VIDEO OPTION:

↓ DOWNLOAD AT: georgiabarnette.org/gcc

Share the Goodwood Community Church Video with discussion questions:

1. How might Casey's vision for a multi-ethnic, multi-generational congregation address challenges in traditional churches?

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2. What does the Welch family's jazz concert leading to the Cuccias family finding faith reveal about community-building and outreach?
3. What challenges might Goodwood's rapid growth present, and how can they maintain vision while growing?

ALTERNATIVE:

Read Georgia Barnette's story

georgiabarnette.org/about

1. How did she follow Jesus' example of going to "nearby towns"?
2. What might have kept her in her comfort zone? What keeps us from going?
3. How does the Georgia Barnette Offering continue her legacy?

WHO BENEFITS? (15 MIN)

PARTICIPATING IN THE "GOING" MISSION

THE GEORGIA BARNETTE OFFERING SUPPORTS:

1. Disaster relief after hurricanes, floods, and storms.
2. Compassion ministries to those in poverty.
3. Church planting in underserved communities.
4. The *Here for You* multimedia outreach campaign.
5. Ministry training and resources for churches.
6. Missions education.

NEARBY TOWNS MAP:



DOWNLOAD MAP: **georgiabarnette.org/study**

Using a Louisiana map, identify:

1. Places within 30 miles needing gospel witness.
2. Communities needing a compassion ministry.
3. Areas where disaster relief has been needed.
4. Places needing new churches.

DISCUSSION:

1. What "nearby towns" is Jesus calling us to go to?
2. How does the Georgia Barnette Offering help fulfill Jesus' words in Mark 1:38?
3. Which aspect resonates most with you personally?
4. How can our church better embody "This is why I have come"?

EXAMINE (10 MIN)

PERSONAL RESPONSE

REFLECTION:

1. How clear are we about our purpose as followers of Christ in Louisiana?
2. What might change if we adopted Jesus' urgency?
3. How might God be calling you to the "going" mission?
4. How does giving connect with Jesus' command to go?

APPLICATION:

"This Is Why We Go": On index cards, complete: "This is why I go..." with personal motivation for Louisiana missions. On the back, write one specific way to contribute to the Georgia Barnette Offering. Collect in a basket as a commitment symbol.

CLOSING (5 MIN)

PRAYER TIME

PRAY FOR:

1. Courage to go beyond comfort zones to "nearby towns."
2. The specific needs identified on your map.
3. Ministries supported by the Georgia Barnette Offering.
4. Your group's commitments to the mission.
5. A generous response to the Offering.

CLOSE WITH:

"Lord, you have called us to go to the nearby towns with the good news. Give us the courage and resources to go because..."

OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTS:

1. Create a visual display of "nearby towns" helped by your church's contributions.
2. Invite a disaster relief, church planting, or compassion ministry worker to share.
3. Set a group offering goal.
4. Plan a service project to a "nearby town" in your area.



FOR MORE RESOURCES, VISIT GEORGIABARNETTE.ORG

