



***The Harvest is Plentiful,
But the Laborers are Few***

MATTHEW 9:35-38

BIG IDEA

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom, had compassion on the crowds, and called his followers to pray for laborers in the harvest.



FOR STARTERS

1. Open your time in prayer. Read through the passage—**Matthew 9:35-38**. What has happened in the story of Matthew's Gospel until now? What happened just prior to this section? What happens after this section?



DIG INTO THE BIBLE

2. What do you learn about Jesus and his followers in this passage? How does the author describe the heart of Christ and the condition of the crowds? What does it mean that they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd? Record any other observations you have.



STUDY AND APPLY

3. What do you think is the main theme of this passage or the high point? What surprises are there in this passage? How would you summarize the meaning of this passage in your own words?

4. **Ephesians 2:1-10** is a great passage to study when thinking about the Good News. What does this passage say about our spiritual condition apart from Christ? What has Jesus done for us? How does this good news motivate us for serving according to the works God has prepared us to do?

5. One other place in Scripture where we see Jesus use the term compassion found in Matthew 9:36 is when he tells the story of the Prodigal Son. Read **Luke 15:11-32** and look at the compassion that the father in the story had toward his son, even after his son had taken his share of the inheritance and spent it on wild living. Reflect on the truths of this story.

6. **Luke 18:1-8** is a passage in which Jesus tells of a persistent woman. How does her life encourage you in your prayer life? How can you more consistently pray for Jesus to send out laborers into the harvest field?

7. **Application:** How does this passage challenge or confirm your understanding of Jesus, the kingdom, or what it means to follow him? What do you need to change in your life and how will you do this?