## CHILDREN'S SABBATH: How Full Is Your Bucket?

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## Luke 10:1-11,16-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few: therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome

you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

## **REFLECT & DISCUSS**

- Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again.
  What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
- 2. The number 70 (or 72) is a symbolic number meant to reflect "the whole world" (or "table of nations"). What do you think it might mean that Jesus commissions that many to go out and share the good news?
- 3. Have you ever had to "shake off the dust" in your life? What was that

- about and what did that mean for you?
- 4. Who do you think made up the ones Jesus sent out? Think about the disciples and those who followed Jesus. What kind of people did Jesus commission and empower? How might these people be rejected or shunned?
- 5. What does it mean that "your peace" will rest on others? How do you cultivate and strengthen this important "inner peace"?
- 6. What might it mean for us to "travel light" (no cloak, bag, etc) like the ones Jesus sends? Our lives are very different in the 21st century, and yet the call to simplicity, focus, and receiving the hospitality of others is still possible.
- 7. What does it mean for Jesus to send *you*? How does it change things for you to be someone *sent*?
- 8. What does proclaiming the nearness of God's kingdom mean today? How might you do that today or this week?