

CALL and COMMITMENT 2025

on your knees  
and pray for  
*harvest hands*

MATTHEW  
9:38



**Call and Commitment 2025 – Bible Study**

## **Call and Commitment – Bible Study**

1. Pause and Pray – Share a focused prayer, preparing hearts and minds for studying God’s word.

Breath prayer example.

- Breathe in - Holy Spirit, speak.
- Breathe out - I am listening” (John 16:13)

2. Background of Matthew 9: 35-38.

- This passage is set just after Jesus finished His Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 8 and 9 we see Jesus, with His disciples, going through the towns, healing many from diseases, demons, as well as non-physical ailments.

The beginning of Matthew 9 sees Him healing the paraplegic and upsetting the religious leaders. He calls Matthew to follow Him, raises a girl from the dead and heals the bleeding woman.

The disciples and the crowds are beginning to realize that Jesus is who He says He is, and they want to know more.

Matthew 10 is where He calls the 12 and sends them out with instructions as to how to be Harvest Hands.

3. Read the passage twice.

Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When He looked out over the crowds, His heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. “What a huge harvest!” He said to His disciples. “How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!”

Matthew 9: 35-38, The Message

### **Questions**

1. What are your initial observations of the passage?

*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

#### Notes

- *Jesus was travelling through the towns and villages, meeting people where they were at.*



- *He saw that the people needed healing, physical, emotional, and spiritual and went about doing that.*
  - *His heart broke when He saw how lost they were and knew that they needed guidance.*
  - *He saw potential, these people weren't written off because of their situation.*
  - *He didn't just pray Himself for workers, He invited His disciples to join Him in that ministry by asking them to pray for harvest hands.*
2. Jesus spent His time going to where the people were at, bringing ministry to them.
- Looking at your church community, what do you do to meet people where they are at? What spaces are you already in ministry?  
*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

Notes

*Encourage discussion, looking at the spaces you are already in as a ministry unit.*

What about you as an individual?

*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

3. Can you identify spaces that are not yet on your radar, both as a church and as a person?  
*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

Notes

*Spend time with the group identifying potential areas of new ministry.*

*Give people space to share personally if they would like.*

4. "Jesus' heart broke." What breaks your heart when you look at your community, your country, the world?  
*Allow the group to share their thoughts.*
5. Jesus looked at these people with compassion, knowing that He could do something to help. The disciples, as they had in the past, more than likely felt overwhelmed at looking at all this need and may have asked Jesus to send them away (see Matthew 14:15).
- 6.



- Reflecting on that was just shared about what breaks your heart, how do you cope with feelings of being overwhelmed when the need is so great?

*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

#### Notes

Remind them that while the need is great, we do not do this work alone, we do this with God *by our side* (a point that will be unpacked a little later, under being invited to join Him in His work).

7. What can you do to see people the way Jesus sees them, with compassion and, as a potential harvest?

*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

#### Notes

*Ask Jesus for His help in seeing people the way He does.*

*Build relationships with those who are in need.*

*Recognize that we are in need also.*

*People aren't problems to be managed, they are human beings in need of a loving Saviour.*

8. "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

The gospel tells us about suffering. Spiritual, emotional, and physical suffering often go hand in hand. Sometimes, our simple presence would mean a lot to those who are suffering. Jesus knew these people needed guidance, and as the Good Shepherd, He is that person. What can we do to ensure the people suffering in our lives find a place to belong, with Jesus and in our church?

*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

#### Notes

*Invite them.*

*Share Gods love with them.*

*Meet them where they are at.*

*Be present.*



9. "What a huge harvest!" He said to His disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"
- What is your reaction to that phrase? How does it make you feel?  
*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

Notes

*Lean into the fact that Jesus is making an invitation to partner with Him.*

- What does it mean to you to know that you are being invited into that space?  
*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

10. Jesus ministered to people's spiritual and physical needs. The word ministry can sometimes seem like its only for those who are ordained or gifted in that way. Ministry means serve; we are all called to do that.

- As a follower of Jesus, how are you being called to be harvest hands?  
*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

Notes

*Use this time to talk about how everyone is called, firstly into a relationship with Him and then secondly, called by Him to share His love to others through ministry (called to be an officer, a teacher, a volunteer at church, etc.)*

- What can be your next best step in saying yes to joining Jesus as His Harvest Hands?  
*Allow people to share their thoughts.*

*As encouragement, you may want to share Matthew 10: 40-42, The Message*

<sup>40-42</sup> "We are intimately linked in this harvest work. Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me, the One who sent you. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who sent me. Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God's messenger. Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help. This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing."



Share available resources at [www.sacandidates.ca/resources](http://www.sacandidates.ca/resources)

- Candidates Discipleship Roadmap
- SHAPE
- Shape of Calling

11. Finish with the Prayer for Harvest Hands – Prayer activity, found in the 2025 Call and Commitment resources.

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