

# GCSE RESULTS

As we explore together what God is calling us to do as His people at this time in this place I am going to explore some aspects of mission and ask that we would use this time to help us explore what God may be saying to each of us.

In order to do this we are going to use the acronym GSCE - but rather than General Certificate of Secondary Education we are going to think about the following

**God  
Calls  
Sends  
Empowers**

# Sends

As we continue to explore how God, calls, sends and empowers us we must keep at the heart of all we do is the desire to see others come to know the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. As we think about what God is sending us to, it is important that we remember we are not selling a product but rather sharing with people the Good news, the best news.

Having looked at Moses and Simon Peter being called last week - this week we will use Jonah and St Paul to help us explore what it means to be sent.

## **JONAH - Jonah 3:1-5**

The book of Jonah is perhaps the one of the best known of the minor prophets in the Old Testament. The familiarity with the book of Jonah means many people can tell you the account of being thrown overboard and being swallowed by a whale. Some consider it a book of history as much as prophecy. But the account of Jonah is undoubtedly the story of a prophet who was sent by God, albeit a reluctant one.

Jonah is sent to Nineveh to take a warning to the people to repent - he was not keen to go.

## **ACTION**

Jonah seemed to think that God was wrong in sending him. Surely there must be something better for him to do! Take some time asking God who He may be sending you to. Be prepared to be surprised.

Jonah reluctantly went to Nineveh - he calls on the people to repent and they responded - turning from their evil ways and living differently. Jonah responds not in amazement but almost in resigned irritation with God. Jonah knew that God was gracious and compassionate. Jonah didn't doubt God's character or think him being sent was a waste of time. Rather Jonah didn't share God's compassion.

## ACTION

Are there situations you doubt God could intervene? Do you question what is the value of you doing something? Ask God to give you His heart and compassion for where He may be sending you.

## Paul - Acts 13:1-3

If we think of Jonah as reluctant then Saul/Paul is unlikely. He persecuted the early Christians and it took some time for those on the inside to accept him after his conversion. Ananias was faithful to respond to what God revealed to him, where others may have doubted

## ACTION

Are we prepared to be surprised by who God sends to tell His Good News? Could you be that surprising person? Take some time to pray about who God may be sending you to.

Peter's vision in Acts 10:9-23 challenges the apostles to see that the Good News is to be proclaimed to all. This challenged the cultural understanding of the time - what God revealed to him altered the understanding of what they were sent to do.

## ACTION

At times we can be in danger of limiting who we think should hear the Good News we are sent to proclaim. What surprising people could God be sending you to at this time? Are we prepared to be faithful

Paul and Barnabus are prayed for and sent by the apostles to Cyprus and hence we begin the first of Paul's missionary journeys. They seek the support of others in the ministry they are sent to.

## ACTION

As you consider where or who God may be sending you to at this time ask others to pray for you? Pray for others you know who are being sent.

Next week - God Equips.