11.01.09/ Mark 6:1-13

Materials Needed
A small suitcase and things to "overpack" it with – clothes, books, toiletries, etc.

Opening Activity
1. Pretend you are going on a long trip – what things would you need to bring with you? (Allow children to put items into the suitcase until things start to get crowded.)
2. Tell the children that when packing for a trip, we have to decide what things we really need – we cannot bring everything.

Read Mark 6:1-13
He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Discussion
Now tell the children that God has sent them on a trip out into the world to tell others about Himself, just like the disciples. Discuss what things God told them that they needed to pack. Was it more or less than what we had piled into our suitcase earlier?

Question 1: What did Jesus say about prophets in their hometown?
That they had no honor.

Question 2: Why couldn't Jesus do very many miracles in Nazareth?
Let the kids answer the question on their own for a couple minutes. Then emphasize that the people there had very little faith in Jesus, and this lack of faith affected all of those around them. Remind them that Jesus has all power to do anything He chooses and that when we have a lack of faith, it means that we are lacking, not that Jesus is weakened by our lack of faith. Ask the children if they have any examples of how Jesus has answered prayers. Remind them of the way it feels to be with people in the Community Group who love Jesus.

Question 3: Why do you think that God didn't want the disciples to pack very much when He sent them out into the world.
Let the kids answer the question on their own. Possibly tie back to the idea of distractions keeping us from staying focused on God from last week's passage about the demon-possessed man. Let them know that God ALWAYS gives us what we need to do the job

He asks us to do. Sometimes He wants us to have lots of resources, and sometimes not much, but when we have HIM, we have all we need.

Wrap Up

Not everyone is called by God to go to a foreign country to spread His love. You can be a disciple in your own neighborhood and schools. Discuss ways that God can use us and the talents He has given us to spread His love to those around us. Close in prayer by thanking God for His guidance and for giving us everything we need. Pray that we would have believing faith when we pray and that we would look for opportunities to share God's love with others.