



Session 10: In His Service
Suggested Week of Use: February 7, 2016
Core Passage: Matthew 9:35-38; 10:1-8

News Story Summary

On the afternoon of Thursday, January 14, 2-year-old Noah Chamberlain went for a walk in the woods with his grandmother and his older sister. While in the woods near the grandmother's home in Pinson, Tennessee, Noah wandered away and disappeared. Authorities were called and a thorough search of the woods began immediately. When law enforcement officers were unable to locate him right away, they called for volunteers to join the search. Days and nights began to pass, and cold weather set in as droves of volunteers braved the cold and boarded buses to go to the 1000-acre search site. The volunteers bundled up with hand-warmers, scarves, and hats to search the rough terrain. Chester County Sheriff, Blair Weaver, said to the media, "I don't know why I'd be out there if I didn't have faith. You've got to believe in something, and I believe we're going to find him." They located Noah after one week; unfortunately he did not survive the ordeal, but the searchers had not given up until they located him and brought him home to his parents.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Search for Noah Chamberlain.")

Focus Attention

Share the news story with the group. Ask: *What conditions made this search especially daunting? Why do you think so many people selflessly sacrificed their time and comfort to search for this lost child? Why do you think they persisted after a lot of time had passed with no success?*

Explain that, just as Sheriff Weaver asked for volunteers to join him in this search, Jesus, in Matthew 9-10, recruited volunteers to join Him in the pursuit of lost souls. These people were not lost physically; rather they were spiritually lost. Challenge the group to pay careful attention to Christ's call for others to become involved in His mission.

Challenge

Remind the group of the news story about the search for Noah Chamberlain. Point out that the search for lost souls is much like the search for little Noah in that it requires a caring heart, faith, persistence, and willingness to navigate uncomfortable conditions. Encourage group members to prayerfully consider which lost soul Jesus would have them to "search for" this week. Close in prayer asking God to provide the strength, the faith, and the guidance for each group member to find other lost people and bring them to the Heavenly Father through faith in Christ.