

The Call to Go

Main Text: Acts 16:6–10

Main Idea

Every follower of Jesus has a part in the Great Commission. God calls His church to **send**, and He calls His people to **go**. Sometimes that means going across the world to people who have never heard the gospel. Sometimes it means recognizing the mission field God has already placed right in front of us.

The question is not simply, **“Am I called to go?”** Jesus has already commanded His followers to go and make disciples.

The better question is:

“How am I called to go?”

Getting Started

In Acts 16, Paul was on his second missionary journey and had a plan for where he wanted to go. But as he traveled, the Holy Spirit repeatedly closed doors and redirected his path.

Then Paul received a vision of a man from Macedonia pleading, **“Come over to Macedonia and help us.”** Paul and his companions concluded that God was calling them to take the gospel there, and they responded immediately.

Paul had a route in mind, but **God had a greater destination in mind.** The Holy Spirit redirected Paul toward people who desperately needed to hear the good news of Jesus.

Icebreaker

Have you ever been rerouted on a trip and discovered that the new route actually worked out better? What happened?

1. God Calls the Church to Send

Read

- Acts 13:1–3
- Acts 16:6–10
- Matthew 28:19–20

Paul did not go on mission by himself. Behind him was a **sending church**.

In Acts 13, the church at Antioch worshiped, fasted, prayed, and listened to the Holy Spirit. When God called Paul and Barnabas to a particular work, the church set them apart, prayed over them, and sent them out.

This gives us an important picture of the church's role in missions. Some believers are called to go, but the entire church participates in sending.

A sending church intentionally seeks God's direction and supports the spread of the gospel through **prayer, giving, encouragement, and sending people wherever God calls them**.

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you about the way the church at Antioch approached missions?
2. Why do you think prayer and fasting were so important before Paul and Barnabas were sent?
3. What does it mean to be a **sending church**, rather than simply a church that occasionally sends mission teams?
4. What responsibilities do those who stay have toward those who go?
5. How could missions become a more intentional part of your personal prayer life, your family, or your Life Group?

2. God Calls Us to Reach Those Who Haven't Heard

Read

- Acts 16:9–10
- Matthew 28:19–20
- Romans 15:20

The man Paul saw in his vision represented people who needed the gospel but had no one there to tell them.

There is an important distinction between being **lost** and being **unreached**.

A lost person is someone who has not placed his or her faith in Jesus. An unreached person is lost in a place or among a people where there is little or no access to the

gospel. There are too few believers and churches for the gospel to spread throughout that people group without outside help.

This helps us understand why global missions is necessary.

Paul described his particular calling in Romans 15:20:

"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known..."

There is nothing wrong with sharing Christ in places where churches already exist. We are called to reach lost people wherever we live. But there must also be Christians willing to cross geographic, cultural, and language barriers to take the gospel to those who otherwise may never hear.

Not every Christian will move across the world to an unreached people group, but **every Christian has been given the Great Commission.**

The task continues because the task is not yet finished.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you explain the difference between someone who is **lost** and someone who is **unreached**?
2. Why is it important for Christians to intentionally take the gospel to places where Christ is not yet known?
3. How would you respond to someone who says, *"There are lost people here, so why should we send missionaries around the world?"*
4. What does Romans 15:20 teach us about Paul's particular calling?
5. How should knowing that there are people who have little or no access to the gospel affect the way we think about missions?

3. How Am I Called to Global Missions?

Read

- Acts 1:8
- Matthew 28:19–20

Instead of asking:

"Am I called to global missions?"

Consider asking:

"How am I called to global missions?"

The Great Commission does not leave followers of Jesus without an assignment. We may have different roles, but every believer has a part in taking the gospel to the nations.

For some, that may mean being called to live among people where Christ is not known. But every believer can participate in sending through several practical ways.

Pray

Missionaries need sincere, intentional, and consistent prayer. The power of missions does not ultimately come from human persuasion or ability. Jesus promised His followers the power of the Holy Spirit as they became His witnesses.

We can pray for missionaries, for unreached people groups, for open doors for the gospel, and for people to respond to Jesus.

Give

Taking the gospel to difficult and unreached places requires resources. Giving allows believers who may never personally travel to those places to participate directly in sending and supporting those who do.

Go

The church also needs believers willing to say:

“God, if You call me, I will go.”

God can take ordinary people and call them to unexpected places for the sake of the gospel. We should be willing to obey wherever He leads.

Discussion Questions

1. How does asking **“How am I called?”** change the conversation compared with asking **“Am I called?”**
2. Of praying, giving, and going, where are you currently most engaged in global missions?
3. Where could you become more intentional?
4. What fears or concerns might keep someone from being willing to say, *“God, I will go wherever You send me”*?
5. Are you genuinely open to the possibility that God could call you somewhere unexpected? Why or why not?

4. How Am I Called to Go?

Read

- Matthew 28:19–20
- Acts 16:6–10

Global missions matters, but **going does not always require a passport.**

Sometimes it may actually feel easier to travel around the world and talk about Jesus with a stranger than to talk about Jesus with someone we know and love.

God has already placed people around us who need the hope of the gospel.

Your mission field might be:

- the break room at work
- your neighborhood
- your home
- a family gathering
- your school
- the places where you regularly live, work, and play

There is a call to take the gospel to the nations, but there is also a call to take the gospel to the people God has placed around us.

It isn't either/or. We are called to both.

Discussion Questions

1. Why can talking about Jesus with someone close to us feel more difficult than talking with a stranger?
2. Who are some people God has already placed in your life who may be far from Him?
3. What keeps us from viewing our workplace, neighborhood, school, or family as a mission field?
4. What would a “mission trip” to your workplace or neighborhood look like this week?
5. Is there someone with whom you have been resistant or hesitant to talk about Jesus? What might your next step be?

Recognize Your Macedonia

Paul's Macedonia was a dramatic redirection. God closed doors and eventually led him across the sea to people who had not heard the gospel.

But not every redirection will be that dramatic.

A hospital room can become a mission field. So can an unexpected conversation, a new coworker, a neighbor moving in next door, a change in your routine, or even an interruption you did not want.

One church member illustrated this beautifully after being moved from one hospital floor to another. Instead of simply viewing it as an inconvenience, she saw it as God moving her **“place of ministry”** to another floor. She began looking for the people God had placed around her whom she could encourage, pray for, and point toward Him.

That perspective challenges us to consider that the places we find ourselves may not simply be happenstance. God may be placing people in our path or redirecting our plans so that we can participate in what He is doing.

Paul’s Macedonia was across the sea.

Someone else’s Macedonia might be a hospital room.

Where is yours?

Discussion Questions

1. How would your perspective change if you regularly asked, **“Where is my place of ministry today?”**
2. Can you think of a recent interruption, change of plans, or unexpected encounter that God may have used as an opportunity for ministry?
3. What might help us become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s direction in everyday life?
4. Are there places you regularly go that you have never really considered a mission field?
5. **Where might the Holy Spirit be directing you to share the good news?**

Living It Out

Acts 16 challenges us to be willing to follow the Holy Spirit wherever He leads.

Paul was willing to be rerouted to Macedonia because there were people there who needed the gospel. That same mission continues today.

So consider two questions:

How am I called to global missions?

Will I pray?

Will I give?

Am I willing to go if God calls me?

How am I called to go?

Who has God already placed around me?

Where do I live, work, learn, shop, exercise, spend time, and build relationships?

Where might God be opening an opportunity for me to make Jesus known?

This week, begin each day with a simple prayer:

“Holy Spirit, show me where You are working today, and help me be willing to go.”

Then pay attention to the people and opportunities He places in your path.

Memory Verse

Acts 16:9–10 (NIV)

“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for every person who faithfully carried the gospel so that we could hear the good news of Jesus. Give us that same desire to see others know Him. Make us a church that faithfully sends, prays, gives, and goes.

Give us a heart for people around the world who have little or no access to the gospel. Call people from among us who are willing to go to the ends of the earth.

At the same time, open our eyes to the mission fields You have already placed around us. Help us see our friends, families, neighbors, coworkers, and everyday encounters as opportunities to make Jesus known.

Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit and the courage to obey when You redirect us. Show each of us where You are calling us to go, and help us faithfully take the gospel wherever You lead.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.