

Go Farther – GO Sunday

8/24/25

Matthew 28:19-20

Sunday AM

What do you think of when you hear the word – **GO**!

GO – to move or proceed to or from something. It's a verb requiring personal engagement and action.

In the biblical sense, the word **GO** carries much more weight than simple movement. The Greek word is a participle that means – *as you are going* or *while you go* – implying *assumed ongoing action* – as in, not just a single trip but a *lifestyle of movement* and *mission*.

Meaning – as believers, we're not merely passing thru life, but are **living w/ intentionality** wherever we are to share the God's love/truth in every area of our lives.

Simply put – we're to live on GO which is to **live sent** – ready/willing to share the Gospel in word/deed from where we are to wherever we go.

The mission is clear. Every Jesus-follower, not just a select few, is called to be a witness who make disciples. This is not an optional assignment for the "super-spiritual" or for missionaries overseas. It is the everyday call of every believer – to live in such a way that Christ shines thru us wherever we are, w/ whomever we meet, in every circumstance of life.

Which brings us to these individuals sitting on stage today. Each one of these men/women have chosen to live out this calling by GOING on a mission trip in this past year w/ our church. They represent some 150 people who've said YES to God's call to go and make disciples – either across the street or around the world.

So, as we begin this discussion, I want to invite you to listen with open hearts – not just to the stories and insights you'll hear, but to the Spirit of God who may be nudging you to step more boldly into the mission you've already been given.

WARM-UP | EASY ENTRY

Introduce yourself. Share your name? What you do for a living? Where did you went this year w/ our church?

What led you to go on your first mission trip – and where did you go?

CONCERNS | BARRIERS

What fears or hesitations did you have before going, and how did you work thru them?

What would you say to someone who feels unqualified or worried they don't have the right skills for mission?

How did you handle the financial aspect – raising support or covering expenses?

ON-THE-GROUND EXPERIENCES

What was the biggest challenge you faced on your trip and what did you learn from it?

Can you share a story from your trip that had the biggest impact on you personally?

IMPACT | TAKEAWAYS

How did your trip change the way you see God, yourself, or others?

INSPIRATION | INVITATION

How has your mission trip influenced your life back home (relationships, priorities, faith)?

If someone is considering going on a mission trip or serving at the Bridge – but is still on the fence, what encouragement or advice would you give them?

When are you planning to go again and where?

Thank you all for your participation/encouragement today. I'm so very grateful for you love for the Lord, for all people, and for His calling on your life to serve His will/kingdom in and thru our church.

As I was reflecting on today and on the God's calling for each of us – I was reminded of a simple story.

One day, a boy was walking along a beach after a storm when he saw 1,000's of starfish washed up on the shore. As he continued walking the beach, he bent down, picked up a starfish, and tossed it back into the waves. Noticing this, an older man asked, *"Son, why are you doing that? There are too many. You'll never make a difference."* To which the boy, picking up another one and tossing it back into the sea – replied, *"It made a difference to this one."*

This is what it means to live on mission. While you may never reach 1,000's, or stand on a stage before 100's, or go overseas for a lifetime – you can make a difference in the life of that one-person God allows your life to intersect w/ today. If you're willing!

Think about it. Every one of us is here today b/c one person took the time to tell us about Jesus b/c someone told them – and someone told them before that.

If you trace the chain back far enough, you'll learn that it leads back to those first disciples who heard Jesus say, *"Go and make disciples of all nations."* Thus, the G.C. has reached us b/c someone was faithful to pass it on. Question is – **will it continue thru you?**

Now – will we be able to save everyone – NO! But we can try to influence the people God puts in front of us. If we're faithful to reach one, and they reach another, and then another, then the ripple effect will continue just as it has for over 2,000 years. So..., **GO!**