

Go Time

Study Guide

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Series Overview

The Christian life is about God telling us to go, our willingness to go, and our obedience in going.

Using This Guide

You may choose to use this guide:

- for personal study and reflection
- as a discussion guide with any group of people interested in what the Bible says about these topics

last update *31 Oct 2018*

1-Called to Go

Icebreaker: I Spy

Just for fun, play a quick round of “I Spy.”

If you are unfamiliar with the game, check these instructions:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Play-the-I-Spy-Game>

Questions for Study or Discussion

- What one thing is essential for you to be a witness for Christ [[Acts 1:8](#), [Luke 24:49](#)]?
- We don't know exactly when Christ will return. Until He does, we are His witnesses [[Mat 24:36](#), [Acts 1:7-8](#)]. Discuss how to strike a balance between looking for Him to return and being a good witness now.
- What are some ways to be a witness for Jesus in our homes?
- Make a list of ideas for being a witness to our neighbors.
- In what places do you have opportunities to interact with strangers? In those places, how could you be a witness for Christ?
- What are ways to be a witness for Christ to people in other countries [[Psa 96:3](#), [Mat 28:18-20](#)]?

Dig a Little Deeper: Old and New United

Consider how the Old and New Testaments unite to glorify God.

	Old Testament	New Testament
Purpose	Theocratic: God will rule the world through the Messiah's reign.	Soteriological (doctrine of salvation): God will save individuals and society through the Messiah's work.
Emphasis	The nation of Israel	The believing individual and the church
Harmony	Also concern for individuals (Dan 4 , Eze 18 , Nah 1:6-7 , Jonah 4)	Importance of Israel remains (Acts 1 , Rom 9-11)
Unification in Christ	Jesus, the promised King of the Old Testament prophets, is also the Redeemer of the New Testament. In Christ's person, God will fulfill all His purposes.	

Application Exercise: Power Self-Assessment

How true are the following statements for you?

	not true ←→completely true
I have a deep conviction about Christ. (1The 1:5)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
I have self-denying courage and boldness as a witness. (2Tim 1:7-8)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Based on this self-assessment, ask God where He wants you to make some changes.

2-When to Go & Stay

Icebreaker: Willing to Do His Will

Discuss your reaction to this quote.

*Seek to have no will of your own,...
so that you can honestly say, you
are willing to do the will of God,...
-George Muller*

Questions for Study or Discussion

- When does persecution serve as a reason to go (**Acts 8:1-3**, **Gen 50:20**)? What good can come of going because of persecution (**Acts 8:4-6**)?
- There are times when a good work has begun, but needs more workers (**Acts 8:14-17**). A church may send some of its faithful Christ-followers. How can you prepare yourself for an invitation to go?
- Sometimes, God speaks to a person directly about going (**Acts 8:26-27**). In that case, what role does the church play (**Acts 13:2-3**, **Gal 2:7-9**)?
- In **Acts 8**, the prevalent image is not public preaching. It is individuals talking about Jesus wherever they go. Discuss the importance of individual believers sharing the gospel (**Acts 8:26-40**).
- When have you had an encounter with a stranger that provided an opportunity to share the gospel? How did you know the door was open to share the gospel? How can you prepare for such an opportunity (**Mat 13:51-52**, **2Tim 2:15**)?

Dig a Little Deeper: Should I Go or Stay?

- Seek the Lord. It's difficult to know God's will unless you continue to submit to Him (**Rom 12:1-2**).
- Let His Word guide you (**Psa 119:105**). Surrender to God. Ask for His guidance and the Spirit of Truth will teach you as you read the Bible (**John 16:13**).
- Put thought into God's purposes and obey His leading (**Mat 6:33**).

Application Exercise: Can You Hear Him?

- When the Lord calls you to go, will you hear Him?
- Are you listening for Him or are your ears clogged with things of this world?
- Pray, asking Him to help you remove distractions so you can clearly hear Him.

3-Hesitant to Go

Icebreaker: Do You Refuse?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=218&v=6B1Lv8k5pEc

View this video and discuss your reaction to it.

Questions for Study or Discussion

- What was Peter's objection to the command to eat the beasts he saw in his vision ([Acts 10:12-14](#))?
- When you hesitate to go where God directs, how can you overcome that hesitancy ([1Cor 9:16](#), [2Cor 5:14-15](#))?
- How can time alone with God increase your confidence ([Acts 23:11](#))?
- In what way will God hold us accountable for our decisions ([2Cor 5:10-11](#))? How does this relate to hesitancy in going?

Dig a Little Deeper: Don't Hesitate

- You have a choice to make. Once you know where He wants you to go, you can follow immediately or you can hesitate (**Josh 3:3**).
- Ignoring or resisting the Spirit of God is a horrible idea (**1The 5:19, Eph 4:30**).
- You are less likely to hesitate if you pursue God daily in praise, prayer, and reading His Word. Keep those communication channels open so you recognize His voice and trust Him (**1Kgs 19:11-12**).

Application Exercise: Hesitancy Self-Assessment

How true are the following statements for you?

	not true ↔ completely true
I keep communication channels open with God through praise, prayer, and Bible reading.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
I am aware of the consequences of ignoring or resisting His direction.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Based on this self-assessment, ask God where He wants you to make some changes.

4-Why We Go

Icebreaker: Church Planting

Seeking to fulfill the Great Commission without the planting of local churches is like giving birth to a baby without a family ([Mat 28:18-20](#)).

What does this quote suggest about the importance of church planting to evangelism?

Questions for Study or Discussion

- Why did the church in Antioch send out some members to other communities ([Acts 13:1-3](#))?
- Paul and Barnabas left the comfort of home and friends to follow God's call. What would it take to convince you to leave your place of comfort to take the gospel to other places?
- Paul and Barnabas faced opposition before the Gentiles begged to hear the gospel ([Acts 13:42](#)). How can opposition to your attempts to share the gospel discourage you? In what way can opposition keep you from seeing those who are open to the good news of Jesus?
- Paul's strategy included reaching people in key cities who could become a local church ([Acts 14:21-23](#)). Which of the following are more likely to occur with the support of a local church?
 - Prayer support
 - Accountability
 - Correct discernment of God's voice

Dig a Little Deeper: Handling Affliction

Prepare for the inevitable trials. Here are some tips for handling affliction.

1-Spread the Word as a Team	Acts 14:1 , Join a ministry; commit to grow spiritually.
2-Expect Opposition	Acts 14:2 , Understand that there will be opposition.
3-Rest in the power of God	Acts 14:3 , Let people see Jesus in you. Rest in your relationship with God (Eph 6:10).
4-Expect division of the sword	Acts 14:4 , Understand that the Bible is a sword that will divide (Luke 12:51-53 , Heb 4:12).
5-Trust in the protection of God	Acts 14:5-6 , Remember that God knows all. Trust in God to protect you (Luke 18:31-33 , 2Tim 3:13).
6-Return to the reason you exist	Acts 14:7 , Spread the Word of God. Repeat for the rest of your life on earth (2Tim 3:14-17).

Application Exercise: What Are You Praying?

Make a prayer list. Use your list as a guide to pray each day this week.

5-Where to Go

Icebreaker: What to Pack

- If you were going on a trip to an unknown destination, what would you pack and why?
- How does knowing where you are going change the way you pack?

Questions for Study or Discussion

- The Holy Spirit sent Barnabas and Paul to Cyprus. This was Barnabas' home island ([Acts 4:36](#), [Acts 13:4](#)). Discuss how the Holy Spirit may be encouraging you to share the gospel with those you know ([Mark 5:19-20](#)).
- Paul had an open invitation to share God's Word as a visiting Rabbi ([Acts 13:7](#)). When have you received an open door to share the gospel? What can you do to be ready to share your faith story?
- Sometimes the Holy Spirit blocks where you plan to go. Then He gives a clear prompt in a different direction ([Acts 16:6-10](#)). Discuss times when the Holy Spirit has changed your direction.
- God may place you in an unfamiliar situation. Paul did not find a local synagogue in Philippi. He had to change his approach to sharing the gospel ([Acts 16:14](#)). What can help you be ready to adapt to unexpected circumstances?

Dig a Little Deeper: Listening to the Holy Spirit

Consider Paul's example of listening to the Holy Spirit.

Refusal Acts 16:6	The Holy Spirit hindered him from going to Asia.
Restraint Acts 16:7	The Holy Spirit made it clear that Paul was not to go east or north.
Release Acts 16:9	Troas was a large city with a harbor, but Paul waited for the Holy Spirit to make it clear what to do.
Resolve Acts 16:10	Paul had a vision that turned him westward into Europe to reach the Greek world for Christ.
Results Acts 16:11-40	Paul and his team traveled throughout Macedonia. They reached many for Christ (Lydia and her household, slave girl, jailor and his household).

Application Exercise: Help Me Listen

Ask God to help you listen to Him. Try one or more of the following.

- Sing songs to Him about listening to what He wants you to hear.
- Create a work of art that reflects your desire to listen to Him.
- Pray a prayer that includes praise combined with your longing to hear Him.
- Read Bible passages about listening to Him. For example:
 - ▶ **Psa 25:4-5**,
 - ▶ **Pro 2:1-5**, **Pro 3:5-6**
 - ▶ **John 10:2-4**, **John 10:27-28**
 - ▶ **Rom 10:17**