



Engage Page: God Said Go

You were created by God to know Him, find freedom, discover purpose and make a difference. All of these things bring a spiritual vitality that simply cannot be fulfilled by worldly success. Every one of these come only with a step of faith. One of the great steps each of us can take to is begin to live our lives with a sense of mission. This week we will continue to focus on what we call "The Great Commission," where Jesus calls us to join him in bringing hope and life to others by helping them to know Jesus and how to walk in the ways of God. Last week we looked at the promises of Jesus in this endeavor – His authority and presence. This week we will focus on what happens when we allow the command "go" to resonate within us and we respond by living our lives on mission with God.

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Read aloud Matthew 28:18-20 in the memory verse section below. Jesus was announcing that he was choosing to expand the Kingdom of God *with us*. We call this passage “The Great Commission” because we are commissioned to be on a mission to help people discover God’s love and how to walk in His ways. When I choose to embrace the call to “Go,” I am choosing to live my life on mission with Jesus. This connects my life to God’s best on so many levels. Three are listed below. Look up and read aloud the accompanying verses and discuss the questions:

1. Living on mission moves me from an earthly mindset to a Kingdom mindset.
 - Luke 12:27-34 (p.1175 *Christian Basics Bible*)
 - Luke 16:9 (p.1181)
 - How does living with a Kingdom-mission mindset change how I relate to God and things? Why does Jesus tell us not to be afraid to embrace this?

2. Living on mission creates opportunity to see and experience God transforming lives.
 - Luke 5:37-39 (p.1162). What is God looking for when He wants to do a great work?
 - How does living on mission position us to see God do what only He can do?
 - How does the promise of His authority and presence enable us to live on mission rather than stay in our comfort zones?

3. Living on mission keeps me connected me to the life I was created for.
 - How does living on mission fuel prayer, worship, spiritual hunger and spiritual vitality?
 - 2 Timothy 4:6-8. What do you want to be able to look back upon when you near the end of your life and what do you want to look forward to?
 - Finally, read the “The Life-Saving Station” out loud. Close in prayer with whatever the Lord places upon your heart in response.

Memory Verse:

Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Suggested Resources:

Ignite Your Life, book by Barry Meguiar (*"The Car Crazy" guy*)

"A Discipleship Journey" small group

The Life-Saving Station

"On a dangerous sea coast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves, went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous. Some of those who were saved and various others in the surrounding area wanted to become associated with the station and gave of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little life-saving station grew.

"Some of the members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building.

"Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully because they used it as a sort of club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The life-saving motif still prevailed in the club's decorations, and there was even an old life-boat in the room where the club's initiations were held.

About this time a large ship wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick, shabbily dressed and some barely spoke the language. The beautiful new club was in chaos. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

“At the next meeting, there was a split among the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club’s life-saving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon life-saving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. So they did.

“As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another life-saving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit that sea coast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.”