

Get Going

“Give What You Got”

Week 4 – February 25, 2024

Scripture: Luke 19:11-27

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Read the Scripture, reflect on the questions below, and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Think about a time when you gave an “it’s good enough” effort to something you didn’t feel qualified to do. Share your experience.

Read the scripture noted above together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

When we feel we only have so much to give we limit ourselves, but Jesus asks us to give just what we have. Ultimately, it’s not about how old we are, or how perfect we are, when it comes to reaching people for Jesus we all carry something that we can give back to God for him to bless others.

The temptation is that in some way we aren’t “good enough” or “prepared enough” to share our faith. We need more Bible knowledge, expertise to answer the hard questions, or spiritual experiences to validate our faith decision to skeptics. We are invited into a different mindset – that sharing our faith does not require us to be better scholars, thinkers, or evangelists. To “give what we got” simply means to *share Jesus through authentic offerings of love.*

Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. Our failure to “give what we got” can be because sharing Jesus feels like an inauthentic fear-based performance. The source of our motivation is fear instead of love. Discuss the following questions we can ask when it comes to sharing our faith. How do you relate?
 - Is God going to be disappointed in me, or discipline me for not being obedient?
 - Am I going to be responsible for people’s eternity because I’m not bold?
 - Am I going to lose my most important relationships because I gave my ‘sales pitch’?
 - What if I deter someone from Jesus because I give “faith based” answers to “fact based” questions?
 - I’m not sharing my faith at all right now, does that mean I don’t really believe what I believe?
2. Sometimes sharing our faith is more agenda-driven than love-driven. For example, we need to produce more Christians to validate we “got it right”, or to win the culture war. What are the ways you’ve had an agenda when it comes to sharing your faith?
3. **Luke 19:11-27** is a story about a King who uses fear & force to rule over his subjects and expand his kingdom. Jesus uses this opportunity to talk about what Kingdom expansion truly looks like as it pertains to using your giftings. Kingdom expansion does not work through fear and force, instead through an authentic offering of love.
 - a. Consider how God has gifted you. What is your authentic offering of love?
 - b. What is in your head, heart, or hands that feels like the most authentic way you show and give love?
 - c. What is your most authentic version of “laying your life down” for your neighbor?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God that by his grace we can share our faith authentically and in love. Ask him to reveal to you how your gifting can allow you to do this, and how you can be confident in what God is asking you to do.

Get Going

“Step Out and Trust”

Week 3 – February 18, 2024

Scripture: Luke 10:1-12

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Read the Scripture, reflect on the questions below, and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Think about the game we play in our minds called “what if”. How have you played “what if” recently?

Read the scripture noted above together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

Jesus appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go (**Luke 10:1**). The seventy-two trusted Jesus and they came back amazed by the work of Jesus through them. Just as the seventy-two took steps of faith, we are challenged and encouraged to take steps also – share our story, serve someone in need, invite a friend to church, etc. We are challenged to reach and impact our own spheres of influence.

Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. Imagine being sent on a work trip and being told not to take anything (**Luke 10:4**). This is pure dependence. As a culture we don't like dependence. We strive for independence, to not need anyone else. Stepping out in trust requires dependence on God. Discuss what self-sufficiency looks like for you. In what ways do you struggle to ask for help? When is it easy to rely on someone else?
2. Pause and think about the amount of faith in Jesus the seventy-two must have had to **take the first step**. No supplies, no plan other than walking and teaching and healing, which none of them had experience doing. But they did it; they trusted and they WENT. While we aren't necessarily being asked to walk out the front door without food, clothes, or money, where do you see an opportunity to share your story or serve someone in need?
3. What are the things that stop you from taking the first step as described above? Why? (ex: worry, doubt, unknowns, inadequacy, danger, conflict with own plans, excuses, etc)
4. Each of us has a unique sphere of influence. It is where God has strategically placed us. Where do you regularly go? Who do you regularly see? How could God use you in the places you already are?
5. Have you experienced anything remarkable in your life that did not require courage? Why or why not?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God that we can take a first step in trust and dependence on him. Ask him to help you imagine all the positive outcomes, instead of imagining all the possible negative outcomes. When we wonder if we'll miss out if we go God's way instead of our own, ask God to remind us that his disciples experienced healing, peace, freedom, and promises fulfilled. We don't want to settle for a life of comfort, but instead step into a life of courage.

Get Going

“Share Jesus”

Week 2 – February 11, 2024

Scripture: Luke 4:14-30

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Read the Scripture, reflect on the questions below, and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Have you ever had a vision for something, but when you shared it, others didn't buy it or understand it? Share about that experience.

Read the scripture noted above together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

As we reach people for Jesus it is imperative that we know, experience, and can share the good news of Jesus. Why is the message of Jesus so life changing? Why does it matter? What's the big deal? Jesus walks into his hometown and reveals his reason for coming to earth – and it offended many (**Luke 4:14-30**). But it is the grace filled good news that transforms lives. Sharing the good news of Jesus begins with looking at how Jesus shared – what he shared and how he shared it. The tool we have to share the good news of Jesus can be described in three words: Message, Method, Model.

Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. Jesus' ultimate invitation is to a new kingdom, a new way, that leads to ultimate freedom.
 - a. Have you ever had a way of living that you thought would be freeing, but it was not? What did you experience instead of freedom?
 - b. How could Jesus' vision for freedom change your pursuit of freedom?
2. Jesus shared by announcing the kingdom and giving vision about what it was going to be like, telling stories of life change, and then living it. Discuss these three parts as broken down below. How can you apply them in your own words and experiences to share the good news of Jesus with someone you know?
 - a. Jesus shared his **message**. Redemption through his sacrifice.
 - b. Jesus shared his **method**. Stories of God transforming individuals.
 - c. Jesus shared his **model**. Living a life of service and sacrifice.
3. When it comes to talking about faith, why is it sometimes difficult to share?
4. Just like Jesus, we may offend and be rejected when we share the gospel, but we have the opportunity to show compassion and be curious. How is the gospel lived out in our lives as powerful as the gospel spoken through words?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God that even though we live in a world filled with brokenness, sharing Jesus with other people is a message of hope. Ask him to help us look for opportunities to share, have courage and excitement in sharing, and be okay if we are rejected. Help us know what to share and when to share; we desire to get going in this area of our faith.

Get Going

“Pray First”

Week 1 – February 4, 2024

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Read the Scripture, reflect on the questions below, and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Think about how you are wired. Do you prefer structure or to be unstructured and flexible?

Read the scripture noted above together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

Sometimes we have the tools we need, but we struggle to use them. We have what we need, we've been trained and conditioned, but we don't move. We might ask: How do I start? What do I do? Where am I going? Do I have what it takes? This can apply to our personal faith journey as well. This series tackles these questions by looking directly at Jesus' teachings and shifting our perspective. Our journey across 4-weeks will help us practically apply the tools we have in our hands and our hearts to share the gospel.

Our first tool is prayer. The disciples were curious about Jesus and the power of his prayer; they wanted to know how to pray like Jesus. So, Jesus taught them how to pray – and to persevere for things. If we want to reach people for Jesus it starts in prayer. Why do we pray for others? How do we pray for others?

Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. Prayer is vital to knowing how to hear from God and to recognize his voice. That's why Jesus instructs his disciples how to pray in **Luke 11:1-13** and **Matthew 6:9-13**. If we do not know God's character the way we address him will be impacted. Jesus was very specific when his disciples asked him how to pray (**Luke 11:1**). What is your experience with prayer? How were you raised, what was modeled for you, and/or what barriers have you had towards prayer?
2. Praying this way trains us to communicate with God just as Jesus did, reminds us of God's character, illuminates our relationship with him, and equips our daily rhythms with a Kingdom perspective. Discuss **Luke 11:1-13** as broken down below. How does each line agree or disagree with what you believe about God? Which petition is most meaningful, inspiring, convicting, or powerful to you?

The Father's Character

Father,

The Father's Kingdom

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

The Father's Provision

Give us each day our daily bread.

The Father's Forgiveness

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

The Father's Guidance

And lead us not into temptation.

[The Father's Protection

And deliver us from evil. – this petition appears in Matthew, but not in Luke]

3. Do you currently make intentional space in your life for prayer? If not, is there one thing you could change, eliminate, or add to start building it in?
4. Consider how can we use this framework to pray for others. Start by thinking, wondering, praising, reflecting on the Fatherhood of God. Ask God to reveal three people whom you can pray Jesus' prayer for this week. Remember, God loves our attempts to look more like him. Take what you hear God saying and do it.

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God he wants everyone to experience a robust relationship with him. Ask him to help us share the fullness of God's character and His Kingdom by praying and engaging with others as he teaches us to do.