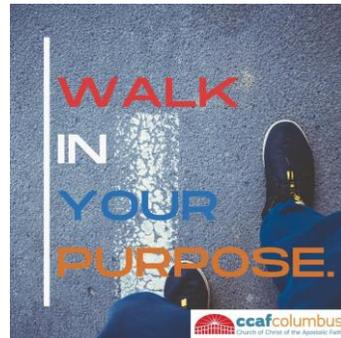




MISSION MANDATE: GO



Middle & High School
Sunday School Lesson
November 22, 2020

Mission Mandate: **Go**



Reaching for God is Reaching for Others.



Bible Passage

Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

(Psalm 96:3 NKJV)

The Speed & Power of Transformation

- If you have ever lived in a small town or attended a school with other students, you know news has an uncanny ability to spread fast.
- When you share something with another individual, statistically speaking:
 - it will be shared with at least three others,
 - it will affect people you never thought it would,
 - if it is about an individual, it will get back to that person.
- Word of mouth is not the only way to share news. We can express our passion for God (or for anything else) through social media.

Sharing through Social Media



- **Social media is a powerful way to express our beliefs.**
- Tweet inspirational quotes or Scriptures on Twitter.
 - Post videos from a worship service on Snapchat.
 - Share meaningful videos or post a status of thanksgiving for God's blessings on Facebook or blog.
- The activities we participate in (or do not participate in) speak volumes.
 - People will notice we go to church faithfully.
 - People will notice we are not attending the same parties they do or not partaking in the same activities.
 - People will notice we do not dress, act, or respond to situations in the same way others do.
- Communicating the gospel is a powerful thing, and it can be done beyond just using our words. **Our actions can communicate so much about what we believe, what we stand for, and even where our hearts and affections are set.**

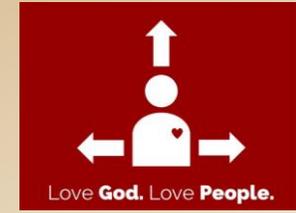
Speak Up



- If we knew an asteroid was heading straight for our friend's house and our friend had fifteen minutes to get as far away as possible before facing certain death, we would tell our friend.
- Sharing the gospel should be no different. **If we believe our friends will perish and spend eternity without the Lord, we need to tell them about Him and His Word.**
- If you believe that there's a heaven and a hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life, and you think that it's not worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward.
- How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?"



Loving Jesus by Loving Others



What is the best way to show our love to Jesus?

Just as the best thing we can do for earthly parents is to bless and care for their children, whom they love, **the best thing we can do for Jesus is to love the world He came to save.**

Read John 15:14–15.

- What must we do to be Jesus' friends?
- The Bible is full of commandments and admonitions. What commandment is Jesus referring to specifically in this passage?
- Why is it sometimes easier to do things for people or to give time or money to church work than it is to love others as Jesus loved them?
- Jesus wants us to love others the same way He did. He loved others so much that nothing could keep Him from seeking and saving them, even to the point of dying on a cross.

Can you think of someone you love unconditionally like that? In what ways do you show this?

The Importance of Love

- **Matthew 20:26** tells us the way to true greatness in the kingdom of God is by being a servant.
- **Matthew 18:2–4** tells us that to be great in the kingdom of God, we need to be more like a little child than a great ruler.
- **Greatness in the kingdom of God is found in quietly loving those around us when no one else is looking.**

Read I Corinthians 13.

This passage tells us we can speak eloquently, give to the poor, and even offer our bodies to be burned as sacrifices, but unless we truly love each other, we are just noise in the wind, without substance.

- Tongues will cease and prophecy will fade away, but love will last forever.
- Real love is not just about smiling at someone in the hallway or giving someone a card on a special holiday.
- Love is patient and kind, longsuffering, not boasting or envious, not seeking its own, not holding a grudge.
- Love is not about loud noise, pomp, or circumstance, but quietly and steadfastly putting the needs of others ahead of our own.

The Least of These



- The best way to show our love for God is to show our love to others.

Read Matthew 25:31–45.

- Jesus was very clear in this passage that He will ask what we have done in our lives to help Him.
- On Judgment Day, the Lord will separate the goats from the sheep.
 - The sheep are children of God who depended entirely upon Him and lived to please Him.
 - The goats are those who stayed with the rest of the flock but lived to please themselves and follow their own whims.
- Those who are blessed by the Father will inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the beginning of the world. These are those who:
 - fed Him when He was hungry and gave Him drink when He was thirsty,
 - invited Him in when He was a stranger,
 - gave Him clothes when He was naked,
 - looked after Him when He was sick,
 - visited Him in prison.
- When the people asked when they had fed Jesus, gave Him drink, clothed Him, or visited Him in prison, they were informed they did all those things when they had done them for others.

The Necessity of Preaching the Gospel

The gospel must be preached in all the world.

Read Matthew 24:14.

- Who is supposed to preach it?

Read Romans 10:14.

- The gospel is meant to be preached throughout the world, and it is meant to be preached by you and me.



“Going” through Local Service

There are many ways we can “go” right where we are.

- Become involved in the local church.
 - Volunteer to be part of childcare for children’s church.
 - Show up for outreach when the church holds an outreach day.
 - Be part of cleaning up the church campus or managing the grounds.
- Become involved in outreach programs in the local community.
 - Join a Christian group at your high school or start one if one does not already exist.
 - Be involved in a local homeless shelter or drug recovery program.
 - Become active in local government.
- Form a steady witness online, using the internet to shine the light of the gospel.
- You can be a witness right where you are.
 - The more things you become involved in within your church, school, or community, the greater witness you will have. You will meet new people whom you can invite to church or with whom you can share the gospel.

Think about Your Next Step

- Consider specific ways to become more involved in the local church.
- Think about specific areas to become more involved in the local community.
- Look up different trips offered by AYC, Youth on Missions, and Next Steps in the upcoming year.





Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (Matthew 28:19)

1. What does it mean to be called by God?
2. Some refer to the Great Commission as the “universal call” of all Christians. Do you agree with this? Why or Why not?
3. Can we really “go” if we don’t love people? Why or why not?
4. Who decided to “go” to reach you or your family?

Reaching for God is reaching for Others!

Some have called the Great Commission the Great **GO**-mission. Why is that? When we think of the Great Commission, we may start to view it as sharing our faith with those who come to church, come to youth group, or come ask us about it. In doing so, we turn the Great Commission into the **COME**-mission.

Jesus did not call us to sit and wait for people to come looking for us. In fact, the recurring word found in the Gospels is **go**. Whether it is going to another part of the world, going to talk to our neighbor across the street, or going to sit with the student in the lunchroom who feels left out, we always need to be looking for an opportunity to reach for others.

Every believer's mission is to make disciples. With this mandate comes the authority to carry it out, no matter one's age, social status, or skill set. Missions reflects our relationship with God. If we are reaching toward God, we are also reaching for others.



Pray



- *Commit your future completely and totally to God.*
- *Ask that a spirit of urgency would rest upon you, to understand with deep conviction, that to truly love God, we must love others.*
- *Ask God to guide and direct your next steps; the places He would like you to go and the people He would like you to reach.*