



*Praying to the Lord of the Harvest, LCMS World Mission, in collaboration with its North American and worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.*

## Lesson 6—Go

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8 (NIV)

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

**Connect:** Tell about the time that you felt most loved. What about that moment made it so special?

### Study:

View Video

We think that to do God’s mission, we have to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) that you have to be a \_\_\_\_\_
- b) that you have to \_\_\_\_\_

Reality: We are missionaries \_\_\_\_\_.

- c) Deuteronomy 6 – going with your \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Acts 1:8 – wider \_\_\_\_\_ of influence

Where are you going tomorrow?

Share where you will be tomorrow and how can God use you.

### **Go and As You Are Going**

1) Jesus tells the eleven Apostles: *“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, 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 28:19-20 (NIV). Pastor Keurulainen observes, *“To understand the word ‘Go’ as a*

*participle is to understand the strategy of Christ for our mission. Christ does not establish His Church on a 'build it and they will come' mindset, but rather, 'As you are going along the way, make disciples'" (p. 141). Do you view your daily "goings" (to work, to school, to the grocery store, etc.) as opportunities to connect people to Jesus? Why or why not?*

- 2) How can you reflect your faith even in the midst of trials?
- 3) According to Matthew 28, how are disciples made?
- 4) What does that say to us about inviting people to become involved in congregational worship?

### **Go into the Streets**

- 1) What is the fanciest event you've ever attended?
- 2) Did you feel out of place? Why or why not?
- 3) Jesus tells a parable about a banquet: *"A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'" Luke 14:16-23 (NIV). Who are those who are welcomed to the banquet?*
- 4) What are some excuses that people today make for refusing to accept the invitation to attend the banquet offered by Jesus?
- 5) Why do you think the master in the parable tells his servant to "go quickly?"
- 6) Does anyone deserve to be invited to the heavenly banquet?
- 7) What does the invitation say about God's grace to you?

### **Go Because He Says So**

- 1) Martin Luther wrote: *"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent*

*suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness” (Luther’s explanation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> article of the Apostles Creed). What do you think it means to “live under him in his kingdom?”*

2) As we live under him, how do we decide what to do?

3) Pastor Keurulainen states, *“Keeping in mind that our response to the Great Commission is a matter of obedience frees me from getting all hung up as to whether someone is more passionate than me or more successful than me. It is not about me and what I accomplish in life. It is about His will for my life as His servant”* (p. 146). Who do you try to impress with how you live your life?

4) What would your life look like if you were able to completely live life only to impress Jesus?

### **Go and Don’t Stop**

1) When are some times that you get discouraged as you have tried to live out the Christian faith?

2) What does “burn-out” feel like?

3) St. Paul writes, *“Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”* (2 Thes. 3:3-5). Upon whose strength do we depend?

4) Who do you know that is a bit discouraged right now and wants to stop going?

5) What practical things can you do to support and encourage other Christians?

### **Go and Wash Feet**

1) On Maundy Thursday, the first thing that Jesus did was to wash the disciples feet. Afterward, he said, *“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”* (John 13:14-15). Pastor Keurulainen observes, *“The world grows tired of power that struts. It is hungry to witness power that serves”* (p. 156). Who is the person in your life for whom it is difficult to “wash feet?”

2) In the course of the next couple of days, how could you offer a humble act of service to them?

3) How does the washing you received in baptism empower you to “wash feet?”

## Go Into the World

According to the Barna Group and Adherents.com, 98,801,732 Americans are not regularly involved in the life of the church; 4,299,192,490 people worldwide do not express saving faith in Jesus. Before Jesus ascended, he told the eleven, “*you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*” (Acts 1:8). Pastor Keurulainen states, “*Jesus has given us the mission of being His witnesses. We are not called to be promoters of a program or even of a church, but first and foremost, a witness to Him*” (p. 160). What is one thing that your small group can do to give witness to your faith?

## Reach/Serve

As you go about your everyday activities, what are two things you can do to reflect your faith? Invite an unchurched friend to church.

## Offer

Sing: God, Whose Almighty Word

Pray specifically for your congregation’s “going,” both for local outreach and for broader missionary outreach.



1 God, whose al - might - y word Cha - os and  
2 Lord, who once came to bring, On Your re -  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, Glo - ri - ous



dark - ness heard And took their flight:  
decem - ing wing, Heal - ing and sight,  
Ho - ly Dove, Speed forth Your flight;  
Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might!



Hear us, we hum - bly pray, And where the Gos - pel day  
Health to the sick in mind, Sight to the in - ly blind:  
Move on the wa - ter's face, Bear - ing the lamp of grace,  
Bound - less as o - cean's tide, Roll - ing in full - est pride,



Sheds not its glo - rious ray, Let there be light!  
Oh, now to hu - man - kind Let there be light!  
And in earth's dark - est place Let there be light!  
Through the earth, far and wide, Let there be light!

(Tune Public Domain)

## **For Additional Study**

### **Go the Extra Mile**

- 1) Jesus said, “*If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.*” (Matthew 5:41). Pastor Keurulainen states, “*We are not called to a life of fairness but to a life of righteousness*” (p. 151). Recount a time when you have gone the extra mile for someone. What was the response to your generosity?
- 2) If you have ever been “used” or taken advantage of as you have behaved generously, how did that make you feel?
- 3) What empowers your loving acts?
- 4) What are some practical ways that we can maintain the “*tension that we walk [in] as Christians in an unredeemed world between going the extra mile and yet holding up healthy boundaries?*” (P. 151).