

## Let's Go Now!

Message 3 of 5 in the series: "Let's Go!"

### A. God has important things for us to do in 2022.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things **he planned for us** long ago." Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

**Life Application:** God will guide us and show us what He wants us to do.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and **he will show you which path to take.**" Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

"The Lord says, '**I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.** I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.'" Psalm 32:8-9 (NLT)

### B. Let's go now!

"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbor now, **don't say, 'Come back tomorrow,** and then I'll help you.'" Proverbs 3:27-28 (NLT)

"Remember, it is **sin** to know what you ought to do and then not do it." James 4:17 (NLT)

Four helpful reminders:

1. Everything doesn't need to be perfect before we begin.

"Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest." Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT)

2. Putting off necessary tasks/conversations often makes things worse.

"A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber." Proverbs 6:10-11 (NLT)

3. When God calls us to do something, He will supply what we need to get it done.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me... And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:13, 19 (NKJV)

4. We never know how long a window of opportunity will remain open.

"Look here, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.' How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone." James 4:13-14 (NLT)

### C. Five situations we should resolve to handle quickly in 2022:

1. When we realize we have offended someone

"So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. And if that happens, you surely won't be free again until you have paid the last penny." Matthew 5:23-26 (NLT)

2. When we're angry with someone

"'In your anger do not sin': Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." Ephesians 4:26-27 (NIV) (see also Psalm 4:4)

"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires." James 1:19-20 (NLT)

3. When God convicts us of sin

"Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, while it is still 'today,' so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting

God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. Remember what it says: 'Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.'" Hebrews 3:12-15 (NLT) (See also Psalm 95:7-8)

4. When we have the opportunity to do good

"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:10 (NLT)

5. When we have the opportunity to share or receive the Good News about Jesus

"For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!' For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. For God says, 'At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.' Indeed, the 'right time' is now. Today is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 5:19-6:2 (NLT)

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### Connect Group Questions

1. Read Proverbs 3:27-28. What God-given tasks have I been putting off? Why? When will I start to tackle them this year?
2. What difficult conversations have I been avoiding? To whom do I need to apologize? Who do I need to confront?
3. Discuss the following four reminders that will help us not procrastinate in 2022:
  - Everything doesn't need to be perfect before we begin. (Ecclesiastes 11:4)
  - Putting off necessary tasks/conversations often makes things worse. (Proverbs 6:10-11)
  - When God calls us to do something, He will supply what we need to get it done. (Philippians 4:13,19)
  - We never know how long a window of opportunity will remain open. (James 4:13-14)

Which of these reminders do you find most helpful?

4. Discuss the following five situations which the Bible says we should resolve to handle quickly in 2022:
  - When we realize we have offended someone (Matthew 5:23-26)
  - When we're angry with someone (Ephesians 4:26-27, James 1:19-20)
  - When God convicts us of sin (Hebrews 3:12-15)
  - When we have the opportunity to do good (Galatians 6:10)
  - When we have the opportunity to share or receive the Good News about Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:19-6:2)

Which of these situations do you find most difficult to handle?

5. Spend some time praying for each other asking God to open our eyes to opportunities to do good today. Ask him to give us courage, strength, and the desire to get started. Pray these same things for our church.
6. React to the following statements.

"Security is a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." Helen Keller

"There are two traps of procrastination that are easy to fall into: The first trap is overestimating what we can do in the short-term. So, when things get tough, we get discouraged and quit. The second trap is underestimating what we can do in the long-term. So, when projects look big or complicated, we never get started." Unknown