

# Let's Go Wherever God Leads Us!

Message 5 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)

*Good News!* God will lead us to the good things He has planned for us.

"Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me... The Lord is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray. He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them his way. **The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.**" Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10 (NLT)

**Life Application:** In order for God to lead us, we must be willing to follow.

"One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!' And **they left their nets at once and followed him.** A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. **They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.**" Matthew 4:18-22 (NLT)

## B. Let's go wherever God leads us.

1. Some of the opportunities God will lead us to this year are in places we've never been.

"That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us!' So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, **having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.**" Acts 16:9-10 (NLT)

**Life Application:** Following God's leading to new opportunities and/or places we've never been will require faith.

"Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see... And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him... It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. **He went without knowing where he was going.**" Hebrews 11:1, 6, 8 (NLT)

**"The Lord is my shepherd;** I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23 (NKJV)

2. This year God may lead us to build relationships with people who don't look/talk/act like us.

"Peter told them, 'You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But **God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean.** So I came without objection as soon as I was sent for... I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right.'" Acts 10:28-29a, 34-35 (NLT)

**Life Application:** Following God's leading to build relationships with people who don't look/talk/act like us means we will probably be misunderstood.

"As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. 'Follow me and be my disciple,' Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, '**Why does your teacher eat with such scum?**' When Jesus heard this, he said, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.'" Matthew 9:9-12 (NLT)

3. God may lead us to do good things through circumstances/people we don't like.

"...I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. But that doesn't matter. **Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.** For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance." Philippians 1:12-19 (NLT)

**Life Application:** We must not second-guess God's leading just because our circumstances haven't turned out the way we expected.

"...everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT)

**Life Application:** Because we live in a fallen world, difficulties are mandatory, but joy/misery is a choice.

**"In the world you will have tribulation;** but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

John 16:33b (NKJV)

**"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4 (NIV)

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### Connect Group Questions

Read Psalm 23 & Matthew 4:18-22. Then discuss the following questions:

1. What do you think it means to have the Lord as our shepherd?
2. How good are you at following God's directions? Who do you know who follows God's directions really well? What's their secret?
3. Discuss the following possible directions the Lord may lead us this year:
  - Some of the opportunities God will lead us to this year are in places we've never been. (Acts 16:6-10)
  - This year God may lead us to build relationships with people who don't look/talk/act like us. (Acts 10)
  - God may lead us to do good things through circumstances/people we don't like. (Philippians 1:12-19)

Which of these possibilities makes you feel most uncomfortable? Why?

4. Discuss the following Biblical principles which apply to following Jesus wherever He leads us:

- Following God's leading to new opportunities and/or places we've never been will require faith. (Acts 11:1-8)
- Following God's leading to build relationships with people who don't look/talk/act like us means we will probably be misunderstood. (Matthew 9:9-12)
- We must not second-guess God's leading just because our circumstances haven't turned out the way we expected. (2 Timothy 3:12)
- Because we live in a fallen world, difficulties are mandatory, but joy/misery is a choice. (John 16:33, James 1:2-4)

Which of these principles is most helpful to you right now?

5. Spend some time praying for each other and for our church. Ask God to give us clarity on where He is leading us and the unity and courage we need to follow Him wherever He leads. Ask God to give us faith, endurance, and joy.