



Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: **Go** out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:18-20 (*The Message*)

### **GO: THE BOOK OF ACTS**

After the departure of Jesus, the disciples could have hidden in fear to protect themselves, or scattered and returned to the comfort of what they knew. But they didn’t. They followed the instructions of Jesus to go and share the way of God with others as Jesus had shared with them. And they changed the world. This is the purpose and mission of God’s church. Are we ready to *GO*?

**You have a part to play!**

**APR 14**

**GO: WITNESS**

**Acts 1:1-11**

As Luke begins the story of what happened to the followers of Jesus, he shares an encounter of the disciples with Jesus before he ascended. The disciples asked a question: "Is this it? Is the kingdom now to be restored?" Jesus told them that the details of when were not their concern. Their roles were to be witnesses for Jesus!

**Our mission is to go and witness to the love and way of Jesus!**

Monday	Read Luke 24:45-49. What positive ways have you observed followers of Jesus witnessing to God's presence and forgiveness in Jesus?
Tuesday	Read Acts 1:1-5. What do you think it means to be baptized by the Holy Spirit?
Wednesday	Read Acts 1:6-9. Why does being a witness for the love and way of Jesus matter?
Thursday	Read Acts 1:10-11. How do we transition from "standing and looking toward heaven," to moving and living by the promise of Jesus' coming?
Friday	Read Acts 1:12-14. As you are invited to share the love of Jesus, what is in your prayers?
Saturday	Read 1 Peter 3:15. How does knowing Jesus impact your life and give you hope?

***CIRCLE Study Questions:***

1. What are ways of witnessing that turn people away from the love of Jesus?
2. Why does witnessing to the love of Jesus matter?
3. Pastor Brian said in this week's message, "We invite, God saves. We witness, the Holy Spirit transforms." What do these statements mean to you?
4. What do you want people to know about Jesus and about the church?
5. The foundational statement of this sermon series is: "You have a part to play!" How does that make you feel? Excited? Nervous? Scared? Hopeful? Overwhelmed? And why?

***FaithFit Challenge:***

With your Clay circle/small group, family, or a spiritual friend, share your answers to these 2 questions. 1) How have you come to know about God, God's love, and the way of Jesus? 2) What impact has the love of Jesus and the presence of the church made in your life, and/or what difference does knowing the love of Jesus make in your life today?

**APR 21**

**GO: ENCOURAGE**

**Acts 3:1-10**

How do we witness? The first witness the disciples share after they received the Holy Spirit happens during an encounter with a lame man begging at the Temple gate. The man asks Peter for money. Peter tells him he has no money to give, but can offer something even better. As the church today, we witness not just through giving money or support, but by lifting spirits and encouraging others with the embrace of God's love.

**We witness by lifting up and encouraging others.**

Monday	Read Acts 3:1-2. Who are the people today who are outside the "gate" – or the doors – of the church and who need encouragement?
Tuesday	Read Acts 3:3-5. What's the difference between simply encountering someone in our daily life versus truly "seeing" them?
Wednesday	Read Acts 3:6-7. How can you offer God's loving presence to those who feel like outsiders, who ask for help, or who need healing?
Thursday	Read Acts 3:8-10. When have you experienced wonder and amazement at the power of the Holy Spirit to uplift or encourage?
Friday	Read Acts 3:11-16. How can you share with others what you've witnessed the Holy Spirit doing in your life, or the life others, to uplift and encourage?
Saturday	Read Acts 3:17-21. How can you witness to others the power of trusting in God's promise of presence and restoration?

***CIRCLE Study Questions:***

1. Who do you know who is a great encourager?
2. What makes someone a great encourager?
3. What prevents us from taking time and truly "seeing" people we encounter in our daily lives?
4. The healing of the man wasn't just about walking, but about inclusion. Who outside of the church family today needs encouragement, healing, and an invitation to be included?
5. Pastor Brian talked about seeing, expecting, and trusting as we witness to the loving embrace of Jesus. What is one area where you can grow in your witness?

***FaithFit Challenge:***

With your Clay circle/small group, family, or a spiritual friend, share your answers to these 2 questions. 1) When and how in your life has someone truly seen your deepest needs and encouraged you with the love of God? 2) Who are the people you encounter in your daily life – friend or stranger – who may need to "be seen", to know someone cares, or to be assured that God has a part for them to play?