

# Reach: Apostles Go!

## Intro

Our theme this year is GO FIRST! Last year we learned how to REACH the lost, the broken and the hurting. This year we will build upon that foundation to become people of great faith and boldness.

KEY THEME VERSE: **Matthew 28:19**, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”*

We have just come through Pentecost Sunday and Ascension day. During these coming weeks we will learn from the Apostles who went FIRST after they received the Great Commission and were filled with the Holy Spirit.

## 1. From Fear to Faith

The Apostle Peter followed Jesus. He watched Jesus perform numerous miracles. He listened to the Word of God being spoken. But when fear came to him the night of Jesus' trial, he denied knowing Jesus three times!

- **Matthew 26:74-75**, “Then he began to curse and swear, *saying*, ‘I do not know the Man!’ Immediately a rooster crowed. **75** And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ So he went out and wept bitterly.”
  - This is the man Jesus met on the beach in John 21:16-18.
  - Peter is asked three times if He loves Jesus and three times Jesus encourages Peter to “feed His sheep.”
    - Be encouraged, even if you have failed, Jesus is here.
    - He wants to restore you. He is asking you to show your love for Him by feeding His sheep.
      - How do you feed His sheep? By sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ! It’s so simple that we forget the power found in our speaking for Jesus.
    - Don’t worry, we are not speaking from our own power, but we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and He will direct us in what to say.

## 2. The Activated Believer - Reach Beyond Your Comfort Zone!

After Jesus' death, burial and resurrection: Jesus showed Himself not only to Peter but to all the disciples to build their faith. He came with a purpose and that was to rebuke their unbelief and direct them to wait for the Holy Spirit to come.

**Jesus gave them the cure for their doubt, unbelief, and hardness of heart: It was action. Let's GO!**

- There is a call to action found in sharing the Gospel when empowered by the Holy Spirit. We see this in Mark 16 as Jesus redirects the Apostles focus: from unbelief to the Great Commission.
  - **Mark 16:14-18**, "Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. **15** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.**17** And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; **18** they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
  - **Acts 1: 8**, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
- In Acts 2:14- 41, we see this lived out in the Apostle Peter. After his restoration to relationship with Jesus and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, he was restored, empowered and emboldened.
  - He was filled with the Holy Spirit's power and he was moved to action to share the truth of Jesus Christ and three thousand people were saved.
  - He was willing to stand up and GO FIRST and God moved through him mightily. This is the fruit of a life filled with the Holy Spirit.
    - Imagine what God can do through you!

## 3. The Motivated Believer

GOing and preaching the Gospel has always been the focus of all believers. This GOing equips and empowers every believer against any and all obstacles. We see this in the Apostles' lives: as the New Testament Church faced great trials and tribulations, they faced persecution and many were martyred for the Gospel of Christ but yet the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread like

wildfire around the world. This can only happen as they allowed the Holy Spirit to fill them and move them to activate the Great Commission. This is the place of great victory.

- **The action of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, empowers the believer to overcome every obstacle.**
  - POINT TO PONDER: Where have you felt weak or fruitless? It is time to put your faith into action and walk in the victory that comes from sharing Jesus with someone you know.
  - It's too easy to judge the "modern church" as not sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must remember, **change begins with you and I.**

## ASK

- Can you relate to the Apostle Peter's fear and denying Christ?
  - Take a moment and ask for forgiveness for allowing fear to move you. Instead, ask for restoration of your faith in Jesus. Let His forgiveness wash over you
- How does being filled with the Holy Spirit's power bring victory in our lives?
- How does sharing the Gospel overcome unbelief, trials and persecutions in our lives?
- What do you need to do to "put into action" the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

## Prayer

- Pray for release from shame, fear, and inactivity.
- Pray for boldness to be released as they are all filled with the Holy Spirit's power.
- Pray for revelation of areas that they need to surrender to God.
- Pray for the upcoming Life Connect Bread of Life or Prayer Walk.

## Action

- On Saturday 3 June we will have our Life Connect Bread of Life or Prayer Walk.
- Saturday 17 June we have our Reach Day (Street Evangelism)