



# GIVE GO SERVED

GROUP GUIDE | MESSAGE BY SHAWN JOHNSON

## START

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

**What is one summer tradition you have or a trip you are planning to take? If it is a tradition, why has it become one?**

## SHARE

We are going to shift gears this week and take the scenic route home. For some of us, we might not recognize all the landmarks, but they are important. For Red Rocks Church, we can grow accustomed to our surroundings and not realize how important the mile-markers are along the way.

This is a special week for Red Rocks Church, as Pastor Shawn cast a new vision for our over crowded buildings and a way forward to reach areas that we believe God is leading us to reach. As a family, it's really important to remember what God has already done and to thank everyone who was able to give, go, or serve to help launch Littleton, Lakewood, and Arvada. What God has done has been nothing short of miraculous and we are so thankful for each of you who have felt led to be a part. For those who have already sacrificed, we thank you for using your time, gifts, and resources to build the kingdom. For everyone else, let this be a great opportunity to ask God whether and how you should be involved.

Regardless of where you are, let this weekend's service serve as a reminder of how important each and every one of you are and that Jesus Christ is the only one who made the ultimate sacrifice to give us all new life.

**Let's read Psalm 77:11-14**

**Take a moment and consider what God has done in your life. When you think of his work in your life, what comes to mind?**

**Why do you think it is important to remember God's work in our lives?**

## GROW

The Kingdom of God is forcefully advancing. Jesus boldly declared in Matthew 16 “...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Jesus is the rock, the only perfect firm foundation on which the church is built and the builder of that church is Jesus Christ Himself. He is the one building the stories, our stories. It is interesting to note that not even the gates of Hades will overcome it. So logically, since gates don’t move, that means the Kingdom is the one on the move. It is the Kingdom that is overcoming the darkness.

### Read Matthew 11:1-12

In the “*The Holman New Testament Commentary of Matthew*” S.K. Weber points out what true greatness means in the midst of God’s ever advancing Kingdom:

Prominence and greatness in human eyes do not necessarily equate to greatness in God’s eyes. God measures greatness by a different yard-stick—the willingness of the heart to yield itself to him and his will, so that his true greatness can manifest itself through the yielded heart. Therefore, the humblest (**least**) in the kingdom is even greater, by God’s standard, than the great John the Baptizer. Jesus did not intend this to demean John or John’s faith. He intended it, instead, as a parenthetical comment reinforcing the kingdom values that were so difficult for his audience to accept—values that run contrary to the world’s values.

**11:12.** Jesus’ statement, **the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it**, is difficult to interpret. We may not be able to know with perfect precision what Jesus meant by this statement, but we can grasp his major point. The context indicates that Christ’s advancing kingdom would be forcibly opposed by violent, hostile people. As Christ’s kingdom advances, the opposition to it would increase. In fact, from the time John started announcing it, until this very day, the false leaders of Israel had done nothing but object.

**We understand from God’s word that the Kingdom is forcefully advancing and with that comes opposition. Within this passage Jesus was re-emphasizing what true greatness is defined by. We see that greatness lies in humble and fully yielded hearts.**

**What types of characteristics do we find in churches that are forcefully advancing the Kingdom? Why do you think those characteristics are so important?**

**What do you think are some of the major obstacles and/or oppositions when it comes to the Kingdom advancing?**

## MOVE

If you saw the annual report from Red Rocks Church that was distributed in this weekend’s services, it’s clear that God has put his hand of blessing on this church. We don’t know why he chose us, but we do know that his hand of blessing is for no other reason than to point to his goodness and his glory. God has been the reason for the growth and lives changed; He is the one leading the way.

As a church body, we are not pioneers; we are responders to God’s goodness. We are thankful for so many volunteers, leaders, staff, and LG Leaders who are being faithful to what Jesus called them to do. We remember these

things this day because, first and foremost, it points to God's power and his Glory and second, it gives us courage and confidence in following a mighty God who delivers and leads the way. We can trust him in the same way David proclaimed.

**Read 1 Samuel 17:34-37**

**Remembering can give us a renewed confidence in what God can do in our lives. Is there something that you are personally facing right now that you need God to give you courage and strength to trust Him in?**

## **PRAY**

As a group, spend some time praying for each other, especially for the situations that people might be facing today. If you are in a co-ed group, we suggest breaking up into guys and ladies groups to pray more openly.

## **TO GO**

**Zephaniah 3:17**

*The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*