



Let's Go | *Let's Go...Back* | Chad Bruegman | 4.29.17

LG Weekly

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer these two questions:

If you were to try a whole new sport or hobby, what would it be and why?

SHARE

In this series, we are going to be challenged.

Throughout Scripture, God continually says, "Let's go." From Abraham, Moses and Gideon to Mary, Joseph, the disciples, and the apostle Paul; all had moments of God asking them to trust him. "Going" is not always a destination, but it does take obedience and faith. For some of us, *let's go* can mean it is time to stay right where you are and dig in. For others, *let's go* means drop what you are doing, turn the other direction, and go where Jesus is leading you. God truly speaks to us through his word, prayer, and through the Holy Spirit who guides and counsels.

God can do anything you know --- far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around, but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Ephesians 3:20

It is such a beautiful paraphrase in The Message translation: "He does it not by pushing us around, but by working within us." God is at work inside each of us who have a relationship with Jesus. When we take a moment to grasp that the Holy Spirit is within us and wants to guide our lives, a whole new world opens up to us. So let's chase down the plans God has for us, the dreams that he has given us, and the life he has in store for us to live. It is God who calls us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. We get our identity from him alone. It comes from no one and nothing else. When God whispers *let's go*, we can trust him completely.

This week, Chad continues the series talking about how obscurity precedes prosperity in God's economy. When we hear the word 'prosperity' many of us cringe as we think it is referring to evangelists on television, but the reality is God wants to prosper our lives in so many ways. God desires for our relationships to prosper in richness and depth. God desires to see our marriages prosper as we cultivate resilient patience and sacrificial love. God desires for us to prosper in our work environments as we work diligently, honestly and lead the way we should to give glory to God. If we prosper financially, then we look for ways to invest in the things that matter and that build God's kingdom and not just our own.

Read Exodus 14:10-18 and 15:20-21

Like us at times, the Israelites complained and wanted to go back to slavery. When you are trying to follow God, what are types of circumstances where you feel prone to want to give up and go back to your old ways of doing things?

Secondly, what would you say most helps you to continue fighting the good fight in life?

G R O W

This week, Chad talked about the grumbling of the Israelites and how God showed them grace when they least deserved it. After such amazing miracles, one would think they would continue celebrating no matter what hardships lie ahead, but as we read on, it is evident that is not the case.

Read Exodus 16:1-12

Throughout Scripture we can see this cycle of God's people, which looks something like this:

God blesses and prospers His people; gracious even when his people are not deserving of it.

His people grow complacent, selfish and compromise God's ways.

God allows his people to do things their way and realize the painful consequences of living life without God.

In desperation and bondage, His people cry out to God to deliver them as they repent of their sinful ways.

God delivers his people as they give glory to God and desire to live life His way.

This cycle repeats throughout Scripture over and over and over again. God is a relentless pursuer of each of us and wherever we find ourselves in this cycle; He is a God who hears us when we are willing to turn from sin and call on him. As we read this story, it is far too easy to be judgmental of the Israelites and their attitude problem, however, when we read the word of God, what we should ask is...God what are you saying to me about my life through these stories?

How did God respond to the people's complaining? Are there areas of your life where God has helped you with something you once complained about?

How do you think God is patient with you?

In verse 4, it says that the Lord tests his people as He provides daily bread for them. Why is this so important? What can we learn from this?

M O V E

Throughout this week's message, we are reminded of God's patience and kindness to us, even amidst our groaning and complaining. He understands our pain and our humanity. At times He disciplines in love that we might return to Him. It is even grace at times when God hands us over to our own sinful desires that we might realize the death in it, that we would call out to God for help. What God desires is that we would want to love him and by loving him, we would want to love others.

Read 1 John 4:18-5:5

Perfect love casts out fear. Because we know Jesus, we have no fear of wrath in final judgment. God's perfect love drives out fear, there is no place for it in our lives. When we love God, we desire to keep his commandments and His ways. Like the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, what God wanted was for them to love and obey Him as they in return loved others.

As God has been patient with you, in what ways do you need to show patience to others?

Where do you need God's perfect love to "cast out fear" in your life? Can you name that fear that is holding you back?

In 1 John 4:20,21 it says that whoever loves God must also love his brother. Is there a fellow brother or sister in Christ in which you need to show love to or a relationship to be mended?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

T O G O

1 John 4:21b *ESV*

"...whoever loves God must also love his brother."