



Let's Go | *Let's Go ... Slow* | Chad Bruegman | 5.14.17

LG Weekly

START

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

If you could only listen to one artist/band for the rest of your life, who would it be?

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 we 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 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 the Lord’s timing is rarely close to our own. In seasons of the Lord whispering “let’s go,” often the call comes with a deep and critical need for patience. As Chad pointed out, the Lord’s thoughts are higher than our thoughts, his ways of thinking are not limited by our human capacity. Aren’t you glad that is the truth?! Though it can be incredibly frustrating and painful when we do not understand how the Lord is moving, the very thing that is frustrating is also worth celebrating. We serve a God who is infinitely wiser than we can ever hope to be. The one we put our hope and trust in is beyond our complete comprehension, which is all the more reason to keep trusting him.

Read Isaiah 55:8-9

What comes up for you when you think about serving a God whose ways are higher than your ways?

What makes it difficult for you to trust the Lord when you aren’t quite sure what he’s up to? If you have weathered through times when you were able to do this, share with your group how you were able to partner with the Lord during this season.

G R O W

As Chad talked about this week, a lot of times *Let’s go* means let’s go *slow*. Unfortunately, we are all aware that our society does not support a slow pace. When people ask how we are doing or what’s new, we can feel instant pressure to have something new and exciting to offer them. The normal pace of life just simply doesn’t feel exciting to society. So when God calls us to something new, it can be easy to assume this means movement and a quicker pace! Yet as we saw in scripture, that isn’t always the case.

Read Exodus 13:17-18 and Proverbs 16:9.

So, the question stands, how do we *wait well*? We learned this weekend the Lord is much more concerned with who we are developing into than what we are running around doing. Just take a moment to pause and think about this. Our lives are filled with “doing.” Some of us even struggle with extreme guilt if we are not “doing.” We have equated productivity to closeness with the Lord. Let’s read this quote from Henry Nouwen’s book, *Lifesigns* (p. 63):

When productivity is our main way of overcoming self-doubt, we are extremely vulnerable to rejection and criticism and prone to inner anxiety and depression. Productivity can never give the deep sense of belonging we crave ... In fact our productivity often reveals to us that we are driving by fear. In this sense, sterility and productivity are the same: both can be signs we doubt our ability to live fruitful lives.

If we want to wait well, we need to be aware of how hard this can actually be. We also need to be curious about the condition of our hearts, and the false truths we might be holding onto that make it all the more difficult.

What does it look like for you personally to “wait well?”

If you struggle with the need to feel productive, take a moment to think about this struggle. Who are you scared to be if you are not “productive?”

What does it mean to you that the Lord cares more about who you are than what you are doing?

M O V E

In light of what Chad talked about, there are two more elements to waiting well which we will go into much more detail later this series:

1. *Understand God cares more about who you’re becoming than what you’re doing*
2. **Watch what you worship**
3. **Keep obeying what you already know God wants from you**

Read 1 Exodus 20:3-4a and Exodus 19:9

The devil is crafty, and he comes for one purpose: to destroy our lives and make sure there is distance between us and the Lord. Even though we serve a God who has defeated the enemy, it is important to be

aware of the enemy's tactics so we can recognize them for what they are: tactics. When we are in a waiting period, we get restless, and we are vulnerable. If we are not careful, our attention and our worship can start to shift. We might start to make results our idol, or we might make an idol out of that breakthrough that hasn't come yet. Our hope shifts. We start to hope in what we think needs to happen, instead of keeping our hope in our God – the only one who is worthy to hold our desperate hope.

God's promises do not expire. He is not limited by our age, our gender, our background, our education, or even our skillset. He supersedes all factors that we could use as excuses. And when it feels as though he has left us in the wilderness amidst the invitation to "*go*," he has not faltered. He has not changed; he has not forgotten us. The Bible tells us that the Lord is the same today as he was yesterday. His consistency is something we will never experience outside of our relationship with him. When slowness finds us, let us be those who do not falter. May we cling to the truths he has already given us and proved every day since. We serve a limitless God. Instead of casting our limits on him that are really cries of fear; let's cast our hope on him. It never returns void.

In a season of waiting, what temptations do you face? What makes it difficult for you to be patient and go slow?

What can you take away from the message and/or study this week that you can start to apply to your life today? Get specific. Really flesh out your plan with your group and invite feedback.

If you are in a season where it feels like the Lord is taking it slowly, how can your group members meet you in that season today? Take a moment to share any struggles you might be having, and invite the members to join you in support. We are not meant to do this life alone, so be intentional today and let someone in.

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

Hebrews 13:8 *NIV*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

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