



Let's Go | *The Domino Effect* | Eric Parks | 5.28.17

LG Weekly

START

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

What is one summer time activity that you have always wanted to try?

SHARE

In this series, we are going to be challenged.

Throughout scripture, God continually says, “Let’s go.” From Abraham to 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, Eric challenged us by looking at a simple yet profound question: *Why am I here?* If we are honest with ourselves, we have all wrestled with this question at one point or another in our lives. Some of us have faced this question on many different occasions! Though the question may feel daunting, and maybe ethereal in nature, it can actually be a question full of hope, purpose, and possibility. The Bible is very clear our purpose on this earth is to make God’s glory known, and bring people into his kingdom. However, this purpose manifests in a million different ways, as we serve a God of creativity and variety.

Read John 10:10.

What comes up for you when you think about your purpose here on this planet?

When you think of the question *Why am I here?* ... What are some of the areas that either you get hung up on, or areas where you have seen others struggle?

How do you think the devil might use this question against believers? Why might it be important to be aware of this?

G R O W

Questions have the potential to be an unexpected window into the state of our hearts. They have the potential to shape our next steps, to illuminate a wound, to identify a blind spot, to elicit strengths, and to attune our ears to the Lord’s whispers. As Eric pointed out, when the Lord asks a question, it is never for his benefit. His questions are always for our gain.

Let’s read Exodus 4:2-4.

Moses' staff represented his identity – his income and influence. Moses was not able to disguise his social standing; it was glaringly obvious for all to see. The Lord specifically told Moses to lay down the one symbol and measure of his identity, income, and influence so that he could be used for more than Moses could imagine. God did not ask Moses to switch careers, to gain a higher status, to come back with a “better” symbol; he used Moses just as he was.

It can be intimidating and confusing to truly trust that the Lord desires to use us just as we are. We live in a world that requires degrees, certifications, experience, etc., to be qualified. Though sometimes all of those things are used and required by the world for what God is calling you to, he is not an employer looking for you to check all the boxes. If the only time we could be used by God was “when we were ready,” what would we need God for? Our lack of ability, skill, knowledge, experience, and the presence of our weakness actually create space for us to depend on him. When we believe we do not require any help or assistance, the temptation can be to rely on our own strength. Many of us have found ourselves in that situation and we can attest to the lack of sustainability our strength possesses.

Moses' symbol of what he had to lay down for the Lord was his staff. Take a moment to think about your life and your heart. What would be your symbol?

What lies currently keep you, or have kept you in the past, from believing the Lord wants to use you just as you are now?

When you think about the fact that the Lord has a plan and purpose for you, and you must be willing to lay down what you have and who you are for him, what does that mean to you? Do you have any fears around fully accepting this as truth?

M O V E

So the question could arise, why does all of this matter? Why would we spend time talking about embracing our purpose in the eyes and arms of the Lord? To answer it simply, *the domino effect*. As Eric powerfully spoke about Red Rocks Church being a result of the domino effect, and that same effect is taking place with his own son, one life does impact another. Jesus' sacrificed life was the start of this beautiful exchange, and he offers it over and over again to us on a daily basis. His life changes ours. Our changed life can change another. He moves through and around us at an inspiring pace, and he invites us, begs us to be a part of it.

People are dying for his hope, desperate for his love, and hurting for his comfort. Don't you want to be part of that?

Let's read Mark 8:35.

For some of us, we might be in our exact right lane. We might feel as though we are walking in our purpose every day. For others, we might just be considering and starting to believe this is possible. Still others might feel as though we once thought we were walking in our purpose, but recent events are making us question this. Despite where you are, the Lord still wants to use your life. Your time is not wasted in the kingdom of God when your heart desires his will. Clarity is not guaranteed, but willingness is required. Are you willing to believe this is true for you today? Are you willing to believe this is true for all your tomorrows? We live in a world that is crying out for us to be willing, and we have a God whose plan to ease their cries involves you.

If you feel comfortable, share with the group where you are in the journey of believing God has a purpose for your life, today.

What has the Lord been tugging your heart toward - or planting seeds in your heart about - that you have been hesitant to share with others? Or, for others, is there something you felt the Lord speak or call you to in the past, and you are doubting that now?

How can you incorporate this message and study in your life today? Ask the group for the support and encouragement you need to help to make this happen.

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 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he

work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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