



Let's Go | *Confidently Confused* | Shawn Johnson | 5.6.17

LG Weekly

## START

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

**Have you ever done anything impulsive, unplanned or completely spur of the moment? If so, what was it?**

## 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. 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 Shawn talked about how God’s calling often comes amidst confusion. The enemy of our soul desires to confuse us; but even when we are feeling that, we can be confident of God’s voice. He is the author and perfecter of our faith. He knows the chapter and page he is writing and our story is one about faith. God has plans for our lives and they are good plans.

Read Jeremiah 29:11

In Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). *Jeremiah*, we look at this verse as a great encouragement, but also with a sober understanding that there are difficult times of waiting before we see the fruit of a season:

**For I know the thoughts**, etc.; *i.e.*, though seventy years must pass over you in exile, yet do not apprehend that I have forgotten you, for I know full well what my purpose is towards you—a purpose of restoring to you “peace” and prosperity. **An expected end**; rather, a *future and a hope*; *i.e.*, a hopeful future (comp. ch. 31:17, “There is a hope for thy future”). That unexpectant apathy which is the terrible accompaniment of so much worldly sorrow was not to be an ingredient in the lot of the Jews

**God reminded his people that there is a purpose in the plan and a hope in the difficulties they were experiencing. What would you say are the mind games you experience in times of confusion as a follower of Jesus?**

**If you are on the other side of a difficult time, can you look back and confidently see that God does have plans to ‘prosper you’ and give you a ‘future?’ How would you encourage someone in a season on waiting on God?**

## **G R O W**

God's ways are higher than our ways. This can feel like an affront to our senses at times. Intellectually, this makes sense, but when we are in a trying situation, it can be hard for us to hold onto that truth. We tend to look at all the reasons God has let us down, then to trust his hand and his reasons. In Isaiah, God reminded his people of how His ways are not our ways.

Read Isaiah 55:1-13

In Chisholm, R. B. (1998). The Major Prophets. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), *Holman concise Bible commentary* (pp. 287-288), we see how our plans and God's can be quite different but God's promises don't change for us and that should be encouraging:

*A Call to Covenant Renewal (55:1-13)*. Using the imagery of an invitation to a banquet, the Lord exhorted His people to receive the blessings He offered. The Lord desired to make an eternal covenant with the nation, which would parallel His covenant with David. Like David, Israel would be living testimony of God's greatness and would rule over nations. If the nation actively sought the Lord and turned from their wicked ways, He would compassionately forgive their sins. They could depend on this merciful response, for God's word of promise, unlike sinful human plans, is always realized. Just as rain does not reverse its course, but falls to the ground and makes the farmer's crops fruitful, so God does not take back His word of promise but rather brings it to fulfillment. The Lord would shower repentant Israel with abundant blessings, which would be an eternal sign of their renewed relationship.

God's word – his promises – never return void. Just like rain, it does exactly what it is intended to do: it causes things to flourish and bud. God's word accomplishes what he desires and achieves what he desires. God's offer of covenant is for everyone who is thirsty. He invites each one of us to come and be filled free of charge, but we need to trust him and his ways.

**In reading these verses, are there any that stand out to you personally?**

**If you were able to put a label on what you are 'thirsty' for, what would it be?**

**Do you think you are 'thirsty' for the things God wants for you?**

**What things might need to change in your life if you are to trust God fully?**

## **M O V E**

Throughout this week's message, we are reminded of God's faithfulness during difficult times. In the life of Moses, God already knew what was going to happen. He already had a miraculous plan for his people. Moses just needed to step out and trust God's voice as a leader. There is no difference between the obedience he was asking of Moses and his intentions for us. God desires for us to just trust him; all we need to do is stand firm and watch. That is why Moses answered the confusion of his people and said, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." (Exodus 14:13,14)

**As we end this study, take a look at the promises of God below. Which one do you most need today and why? Try to memorize it by the next life group meeting. Let it saturate your heart and mind as you trust the word of the Lord:**

Ephesians 3:20-21 (The Message)

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.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Matthew 28:20

... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Deuteronomy 31:8

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

Isaiah 43:1-3

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior

## **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**

**Isaiah 41:10 ESV**

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

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