



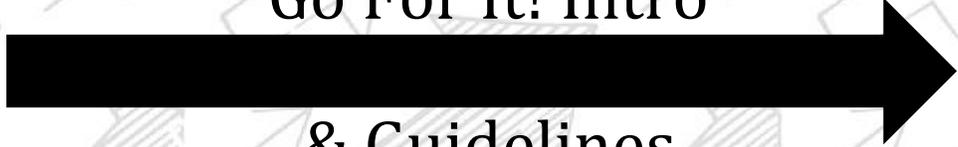
# **Go For It!**

## **2017-18**

Month 5

Luke 6-7

# Go For It! Intro



## & Guidelines

Hello! Welcome to “Go For It”!

We are excited you have chosen to join us on this journey. Every quizzing season is an adventure and we are excited to provide this curriculum for Ruth & Luke (Part I). The purpose of the program is to encourage all quizzers to put their faith into action and to provide coaches with an accessible way to facilitate that progress.

Our prayer is that through these weekly “Go For It” devotionals, quizzers will be given the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Scripture, learn to pray for others, and discover simple, but meaningful ways to put their faith into action. We want to be able to share how encouraging God’s words can be for them in their lives right now. Quizzers can make a difference in their communities, in their schools, and around the Globe today!

Each month the “Go For It” devotionals will be available through the Free Methodist Bible Quizzing Newsletter and through [fmquizzing.net](http://fmquizzing.net). The devotionals can be re-printed and distributed in whatever way is easiest for your Bible Quiz Ministry (electronic or paper). We only ask that you do not charge for the use of the curriculum. It is a free service that we are happy to provide. Each devotional has a theme verse, a lesson, a challenge, additional readings, a prayer focus, and a reflection piece. It is best if you can follow up with your quizzers each week to discuss and pray over the challenge or other aspects of the devotional. Finally, we ask that you join us in prayer for all who are going to Go For It!

God Bless,

Adam Schell & Lindsay Canon

## Week One – What Am I Assuming?



*Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?” Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ...The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” ~ Luke 6:2-3, 5b*

In this story, we find the Pharisees watching Jesus, waiting for him to do something wrong. Therefore, the second that Jesus does something that doesn't fit their definition of what a good Jewish man should be doing, they immediately accused him of breaking the law! However, in Jesus' response, we see that his emphasis lies not in obeying every minute detail of every law or tradition that had been taught, but in representing God's character and doing good for the people around him.

In the same way, I sometimes find myself judging people based on how I expect them to act or how I would act myself, assuming that my way is best. However, as Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees indicate, it is very possible that our assumptions of what is best are not in line with what is really the best thing! If the Pharisees had gotten their way, the man with the shriveled hand would not have been healed! How could this be better than what Jesus did by saving this man's life?

**Challenge:** It's easy to assume that our own opinion is right, but this week, let's try to hear people out more often. When you would normally insist on your own opinion, try going with what someone else thinks would be best! This can be a great way to build humility as well as to show respect and trust to other people.

**Weekly Prayer Focus:** Pray for a growth of personal humility this week.

**(Day one)** This week, I am going to

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**(Day seven)** Reflections on the week:

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**Additional Reading:** I Samuel 21:1-9

I read the additional reading

## Week Two – What’s in the Mirror?

*“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. ~ Luke 6:41-42*

This passage contains one of the most referred to metaphors of Jesus, as he compares our sins to a plank of wood in our eyes. It seems like it should be much easier to see a plank than a speck of sawdust, yet how much more time do we spend looking at other people than at ourselves? It’s impossible for me to see my own eye unless I take the time to look into a mirror at my own reflection.

**Challenge:** This week we are going to spend a little time looking in the mirror – though not literally. Self-reflection is a practice that can have different effects on different people. Some people have a hard time finding flaws in themselves but can find plenty of things that they do well. Others have a more difficult time thinking about their positive traits yet can list endless flaws in themselves. Therefore our challenge for us this week is to make a list of 5 positive traits about ourselves as well as 5 negative traits. This practice is not meant to create pride in us or to tear ourselves down, but to help us realize how wonderfully God has created each of us as well as the things that we want to concentrate our efforts on improving. Are you prompted to take further action while making this list? Then Go For It!

**Weekly Prayer Focus:** Pray for a growth of compassion in yourself this week.

**(Day one)** This week, I am going to

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**(Day seven)** Reflections on the week:

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**Additional Reading:** I Corinthians 10:1-13

I read the additional reading

## Week Three – Who Can I Welcome?



*Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ~ Luke 7:44-45*

Jesus was eating at the house of a man who knew Jewish customs better than anyone. He had studied how to be the best Jew that a man could be and he knew the answers to any difficult theological question that anyone might ask him. Yet, in hosting Jesus for a meal, he did not meet his basic needs of being welcomed and cleaned for the meal. It was not the qualified man who ended up doing this, but a woman who practiced an extremely humble yet extremely genuine love.

This story contains a word of caution for those of us who have been in the church our whole lives. It is all too easy to become so obsessed with our difficult theological questions or the rituals of our church service that we forget to show the basic love that attracted us to Jesus in the first place. It’s easy to point out what the Pharisee did wrong in this story, yet I have found it much easier to stand in his place in life than to serve those around me as the woman does in this account.

**Challenge:** How can we show hospitality in our daily lives? How can we love people around us in ways that shows them the love of Jesus? This week, let’s look for those things and try them! It isn’t easy; it’s so much easier to do what is comfortable and normal like the Pharisee did. But if we invite an unpopular kid to eat with us, wash the dishes for our family, or even smile more often at the people we pass by, we might make a huge impact in someone’s day or possibly in his or her life!

**Weekly Prayer Focus:** Our classmates and teachers.

**(Day one)** This week, I am going to

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**(Day seven)** Reflections on the week:

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**Additional Reading:** Hebrews 13:1-3

I read the additional reading

## Week Four – Who Needs to Know?

*Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” ~ Luke 7:48-50*

Can you imagine the feeling that the woman in this story was experiencing? A man whom she held as a prophet, an authority from God, just announced that her sins – her many sins – were forgiven. No one had heard of this happening; people couldn't forgive sins. That was something that only God could do, and that only when the right sacrifices were offered to Him by people who were qualified to offer them to Him. But here, as a result of the faith that an everyday woman exhibited, her sins were forgiven in an instant.

This, my friends, is the Good News. This is the Gospel! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to the world in a human body and He offered us redemption through His own sacrifice, death, and resurrection. We are free from sin and death and will one day be free from suffering and live forever with the God of the Universe if only we will accept this gift and submit ourselves to His will.

**Challenge:** Do you know anyone who doesn't know this Good News? If I may be so bold, they need to. That's why this week's challenge is a little bolder than some of our other weeks' challenges have been. This week, let's invite someone to have an opportunity to learn this Good News. I'm not asking you to go preach in your schools or on the sidewalks. But if you know anyone who doesn't know what a saving faith in Jesus is, invite him or her to come with you to church, youth group, or some other event where they might find out. It might change their life. It might change yours. Be bold, friends, and Go For It!

**Weekly Prayer Focus:** Your friends and family who don't know Jesus.

**(Day one)** This week, I am going to

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**(Day seven)** Reflections on the week:

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**Additional Reading:** Matthew 28:16-20

I read the additional reading