



Go For It!

2017-18

Month 7

Luke 10-11:28

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. 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 – How Can I Follow Jesus?



As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”
~ Luke 9:57

It’s an easy thing to say that one will follow Jesus, especially in an emotional encounter with Him, a life-changing moment, or when everyone around us is making a similar commitment. However, in this encounter, Jesus makes it clear that He doesn’t want anything to do with our empty claims to follow Him. Three people in this story tell Jesus that they will follow Him, yet one thing or another was holding them back. For one, it was security, for another it was social duty, and for a third it was family. These are good things! But none of them should take precedent over following Jesus when He calls us.

Many of us who are Christians can point to a moment or moments of encountering Jesus. Often, these are our stories of conversion or recommitting our lives to Jesus. Please don’t hear me wrong: I am not discounting these experiences or saying that they are not real! But it is a very real challenge to live up to the promises and vows that we so often make in those moments. The question I fall back on this week is, “How can we follow Jesus every day?”

Challenge: This is not a quick fix issue. However, as we ponder this question this week, let’s try to take a step in the right direction! Search your life for an obstacle that is holding you back from fully following Jesus. It could be a negative thing; it could just as easily be a positive thing – as we read in Luke 9. As you consider that obstacle, ask yourself, “How can I follow Jesus every day?” I can’t fill in the details for you, but I pray that you pursue them this week!

Weekly Prayer Focus: Ask Jesus to help you to follow Him better, however He is calling you.

(Day one) This week, I am going to

(Day seven) Reflections on the week:

Additional Reading: Romans 6:1-14

I read the additional reading

Week Two – Is There Peace Here?



When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ~ Luke 10:5

Jesus' instructions to His disciples here make one thing very clear to me: God is everywhere, but He is especially present in certain places and at certain times. I am a strong believer in the peace of God and its role in our lives. As a senior in college looking toward a future that is unknown in many ways right now, I am actively searching for the peace of God right now. Maybe that's why this verse stood out to me as I was planning this devotional.

However, in any stage of life, there are decisions to be made and choices that will shape our next steps. The question is, how do we make these choices? For some, it is natural to use logic and definite steps to reach a sound conclusion. For others, the way that one decision or another makes us feel is the primary tool we use to make our decisions. Yet for all of us, I believe, the peace of God can play an important role in our decisions. If you've used logic to get to a rational choice or if a certain choice would make you feel good, yet it feels like something is holding you back, consider that this might be the peace of God, or rather, the lack of the peace of God in this decision. It may be foreign or confusing at times, but if we practice living according to the peace of God, I wonder if our decisions might look different.

Challenge: This week, practice seeking God's peace in your life and in your decision-making. I cannot tell you how this will look or feel or how you will experience this – I imagine it is a different experience for most people as God works uniquely in each of our lives. However, if you ask God to show you His peace and to guide you, I trust that He will be faithful.

Weekly Prayer Focus: Pray for God's peace to rule in your own life and in the greater world.

(Day one) This week, I am going to

(Day seven) Reflections on the week:

Additional Reading: 1 Peter 3:8-12

I read the additional reading

Week Three – Who Is My Neighbor?

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” ~ Luke 10:36-37

In this classic story, a highly religious figure is trying to publically prove either his own righteousness or Jesus’ false teaching. However, rather than either of these two things happening, the expert in the law is given a lesson in what it really means to love one’s neighbor! As we are often given to doing, this religious expert had made God’s command into something that was more attractive or manageable to him, but here Jesus fills him in on the true meaning of the command.

Jesus didn’t teach to love our neighbors who look like us. He didn’t teach us to love our neighbors that we get along with. He didn’t even teach us to love our neighbors when we have time or feel it is convenient for us to do so. No, Jesus taught – and exemplified – a love of neighbor that is for all people in all places at all times. This is a high calling, and a difficult command to live by, yet we have been called to, “Go and do likewise.”

Challenge: I doubt that this week you will pass by a man on a roadside who has recently been beaten and robbed by bandits. However, I assure you that you will pass someone who is in need of love but whom everyone else is passing by. I don’t want to suggest even what this might look like so that we can avoid tunnel vision, but be on the lookout this week for people who need to be loved by their neighbors. And come to practice next week ready to share the stories of your encounters this week!

Weekly Prayer Focus: Leaders in our church and in our community.

(Day one) This week, I am going to

(Day seven) Reflections on the week:

Additional Reading: Galatians 5:13-18

I read the additional reading

Week Four – How Do We Pray?



He said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.” ~ Luke 11:2-4

This Scripture passage is one that is quoted often in churches and small groups and Christian settings as The Lord’s Prayer. It is drilled into most of us from the time that we are toddlers so that, for many of us, by the time we reach our teens and years beyond, it has turned into something that we have memorized and recite in an ominous, monotonous fashion. I have come to call this, “The Zombie’s Prayer,” as sometimes if I close my eyes and listen, it sounds much more like the call of a zombie than the worship of living people!

The question for me, then, is how do we breathe freshness and life into a powerful prayer that to some has become stale or meaningless. It is not to throw it out! These are the words of Jesus, and they are words that have been seen as so important that we teach them over and over again to our children, youth and adults! But perhaps, somehow, we can put them into our own language?

Challenge: Sometimes when I feel that I’m not appreciating the Lord’s Prayer, I change some of the language into what I would be more inclined to use. “Thou” becomes “You,” “Thine” becomes “Your,” you get the point. However, this week, I want to suggest that we do this on a larger scale. This week, take a look at the Lord’s Prayer and rewrite it into your own words. You can remain very close to the original, or simply use it as an outline – don’t worry, we’re not publishing a new Bible here! The goal of this isn’t to make the prayer better, but to make it personal. Hopefully, through this, we can begin some great conversations with God!

Weekly Prayer Focus: Your prayer life and personal connection with God.

(Day one) This week, I am going to

(Day seven) Reflections on the week:

Additional Reading: Matthew 6:5-15

I read the additional reading

Week Five – What Have I Learned?



He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” ~ Luke 11:28

We’re done with new material for the 2017-2018 Bible Quizzing Season! Congratulations on making it this far through the year and on all of the amazing Scripture that you have already learned so well! Take a moment right now, if you’re in practice, and look around at your coaches and teammates to congratulate them on making it this far – you have accomplished something big!

The flip side of this accomplishment is that today begins the time of the quiz season where it becomes very easy to settle. “I’ve already learned it all,” you might say. “What more is there to do?” As you avoid the gaze of your coaches, let me tell you what they’re thinking, “There is so much more to do!” However, in this unique week of the year, let’s pause for just a moment and reflect on how much we have already learned.

Challenge: What is a verse or a story that you have studied this year that has been particularly impactful on you? Maybe you’ve been so busy studying that you haven’t stopped to notice the impact it’s having on you. Maybe you have so many verses and stories that you can’t even begin to choose! Take a moment if you can and share with your teammates what specific Scripture has been particularly impactful to you this quiz season. If you can think of something, find a way to keep thinking about the impact of God’s Word throughout this week. If you can’t, spend some time reflecting on the year and considering what God has been teaching you through His Word. It is so easy to forget what God has been teaching us, yet when we stop and remember, it can be a truly powerful experience.

Weekly Prayer Focus: Your Bible quizzing coaches.

(Day one) This week, I am going to

(Day seven) Reflections on the week:

Additional Reading: John 15:7-17

I read the additional reading