

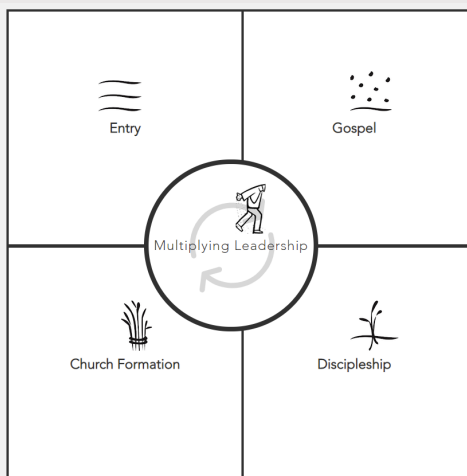


## 'Go, therefore'

### 1. A farming pattern for mission

### 2. Find your own way

### 3. Where do we go?



## The Great Commission – 'Go, therefore'

### Open up opportunities

#### Read

- **Matthew 28:19**

### 1. Intro

Where do you see yourself in relation to that passage? You are one of the disciples who Jesus is calling to go. We must go. It is our identity that we make disciples that make disciples. You are not just receiving the command you are a beneficiary of people who went – people who have gone. 2000 years ago some people took the instructions seriously. When Jesus gave this instruction, He included Whitstable.

You were on Jesus's mind. And now its landed at you guys – because someone told you. Who took this seriously and told you the good news of Jesus Christ? – where would you have been if they hadn't?. What if Christianity had not arrived in this country. What if Augustine hadn't taken it seriously when he landed in this country.

Before you take seriously the command to go you must enjoy the gospel and what it has done for you. You are a wretch you were not entitled to any of this – but because someone came to tell you – you were doomed to hell. But in Christ I get saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

This is such good news. Scientist's studied a formulae for happiness and suggested the key was to lower your expectations – more likely to be happy. Lower your expectations of what you are entitled to – we deserve nothing – our sins deserve hell. Our salvation humbles us into the dust. I deserve none of this – God help you to realise what a wretch we are. We need this before we can enjoy His favor.

In Christ we receive everything to give you one nugget of truth – to change your motivation – enjoy the gospel – remind yourself about it, sing about it, have joy share the goodness out of joy. When you revel in it this will become the best news.

### 2. A pattern for mission

#### A farmer

Looks out into an empty field – he can see the future – he can enjoy in his mind the harvest. He knows it will take hard graft – he knows if we want to see the harvest.

I have to farm because this is what farmers do – the farmer has been adopted into a farming family. He needs to leave the comfortable farm house, he needs to prepare the soil, the hard graft.



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#### Sows the Seeds

Once he has ploughed the earth he then scatters the seeds.

#### See growth

He can nurture the seed and protect it and weed it. He can't **make** it grow but he can **help** it grow

#### He gathers the harvest

When the time is right he brings in the harvest – when it is ripe.

#### He keeps back the seed and then sows it into another empty field

Wisely he doesn't neglect the next season and keeps back some of the seed to sow for the next season.

### 3. Find your own way

#### Find your own way

Christians need to go to new people and new places. How do we live in a town like Whitstable – we live with His presence and His power. Look out of lonely, poor, broken, foreigners, and sick. To pray for people and with people practice hospitality. **People don't care what you know until they know that you care.**

If your motivation is not to love that person then your message will get drowned out by the noises of the twitterverse. Pattern in scripture to find the people of peace – and for the religious.

When you have built those loving relationships then share the gospel – tell them the simple truth they need to be reconciled with God on his terms – the death of Jesus.

You must find a succinct and quick way – back of a fag packet – we use the three circles – but find a way that fits for you. Can you quickly tell people of the impact that Jesus made in your life? Tell God's story and our story. When people respond to the good news, and they will, we can't force that – it is God's work. It is our job church to nurture that growth – to provide friendship and teaching and nurture. To teach newbies what it is to follow Jesus.

After initial stages of growth – invite them into your church or start a new church. Sometimes we meet a new person and invite them to church – not a terrible thing to do – better thing is to get to know them – build a relationship. You baptize them and nurture them and then bring them in. If we just have a Sunday event – are participates and we may or may not make disciples for Jesus. If we go we will see disciples.

Once they follow Jesus they come into the community or a church plant.

We should never see ourselves as weak and powerless otherwise we get ourselves in a mess. No that is the devil speaking and telling us we are failures – he wants us to feel powerless and paralyze us.



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#### **Growth as a stimulation for change**

In South Korea there is a church that says if you have been here more than three years then it is time to go – and plant a new church. We still want to push small – once we got to fifty – we then planted a church. We did it again over lock down with another church plant of twelve people.

#### **4. Where do we go?**

Go where there are non-Christians. They went to Jerusalem, Samaria and then end of earth. You are already a witness in your town- people are already reading your life. Am I telling the truth of what it is to tell the truth of Jesus – you need more power and prayer. God will give it for you

#### **Go to the least, the last and the lost**

If you look in Luke 14,16-23 have a great banquet to invite people but many said no. Keep inviting. Lots of people are not interested – they have excuses – you have invited many – but when the owner heard this and said go in and bring in the poor, the cripple and the lame. Go to the roads and the country lanes – go to the widow, the least and the last and the lost.

Hundreds of people a stone's throw from this church that are broken and lonely. Go to them they need the gospel and the gospel community. People are crying out to God and don't know his name. We have got to get a move on – there are broken people that need the gospel.

Why should we go? Jesus has all authority – but has He got authority over you. If He doesn't have all authority then he has no authority at all.

Think of a father who tells his child to tidy his room – and there come back a whole sequence of excuses including – I have learned some brilliant songs about room tidying, I have read some books, I have formed a small group and we are going to chat about it, I have studied some incredible past heroes of room tidying, I have read it in Greek.

Go and make disciples – we too can come back to our Father with a hundred excuses and skirt around the main issue that we have to actually go.

We must go to be with Jesus – go where Jesus is going – He stirs love for people in our hearts – we must go together – assume you are going somewhere new as a Christian. Stay -but at some point, you must go because you enjoy the gospel.



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### Final Verse

**2 Corinthians 5:15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.**

**16Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. 17Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

**20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

Are you grateful that Jesus died for you? What hope did we have of saving ourselves? What is this new life He has given me – He is a new creation – the old has gone – I am dead and now I am alive. Now I am heading to heaven.

And he has given us the ministry of reconciliation – he has committed us to the message of reconciliation – as if God is making His invitation through us. We beseech you non-Christians to give your life to Jesus right now.

Let us be ambassadors committed to Go!