

Go City!

Intro: What is Go!

Matt 28:19; Matt 22:37-39; Acts 1:8

Global and Local strategies

Go! Is across the street, across the tracks, across the world!

1. Why the City? Theology of the City (What does God/Bible say about it?)

- Robert Linthicum quote, “The bible is an urban book...” The worlds of Moses, David, Daniel and Jesus were urban.
- The bible narrative begins in a garden and ends with a city (new Jerusalem)
- Joshua and the Israelites- part of the promised land was “Great and good/flourishing cities that they would live in” God gifted them cities they did not build.
- Jonah is about a city, Nineveh the “Great city”.
- Nehemiah became a city planner and governor over the city of Jerusalem
- Early church grew in an urban city context.
- Paul’s primary ministry fronts were in major cities of the Roman Empire.
- Psalms is full of city psalms; Jerusalem, Zion
- Most of Paul’s letters were written to city churches on how to do ministry in a city.
- Ezekial 16:1-4 God marries the city in an amazingly intimate glimpse into God’s love for Jerusalem.
- Contrast of Babylon and Jerusalem
- Isaiah and Jeremiah prophets to the city
- Jesus in Luke 13:34,35 and 19:41-44 Laments and weeps over Jerusalem.

2. Strategy: What we should be doing? 3 P’s of Go: Prayer, Presence, and Proclamation. These always go together.

Jeremiah 29

Letter to the exiles in Babylon.

1. Pray for the City.
2. Presence: Love the City.
3. Proclamation: Seek the welfare of the city. “Shalom in the city” is good works and good news of the gospel.

3. How we are starting to Do it.

Practical Strategy: Local

Haven Family Center- community center for the corridor. Strategy is to educate, equip, empower (infused with the gospel) individual transformation to community transformation. Indigenous leadership development.

- Foster Care
- Circle of care
- Love outreach
- Corridor strategy
- Youth Leadership Development

Conclusion: Lights in the City illustration. We are called to “Light the City”

- Matthew 5:14 “You are a city on a hill...”
- Ephesians 5:8 “ Walk as children of light...”
- Philippians 2:15 “...in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...”

