

REACH

REACH

An abstract geometric design featuring a central horizontal line with a small circle at its left end. A vertical line with a downward-pointing arrow at its base intersects this horizontal line. Several dashed circles of varying sizes are scattered around the center. A series of solid dots forms a curved path starting from the bottom right and moving towards the center. Other elements include a dashed horizontal line to the left of the center, a dashed line with a dot at its end on the right, and a solid line with a dot at its end on the right. The design is set against a light gray background with a horizontal brown line near the bottom.

ANDY GEORGE

REACH

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REACH

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REACH

- GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU AND ME -

As followers of Jesus, both you and I have been commissioned to take the Good News (the Gospel) into the world. REACH is about people who have accepted the call and commission to GO and reach people with an incredible Truth. What is that truth? While we were still sinners, God sent His son to die so that we could have life (Romans 5:8).

I understand that, to many, this sounds intimidating. You are not sure where to start, or how to actually reach people and live out this commission. Over the pages of this book, I will give you a very practical and simple approach to reaching people. I encourage you to use this as a workbook. There are several places for you to write, underline, and answer questions to help give you better understanding and confidence.

This is not just a book for a specific church to use or a few small groups to put into practice. This is for every believer! Envision what will happen when churches and Christians accept the call and go out into our world with new spiritual boldness. Imagine what it would be like to see your family, neighbors, friends, coworkers, and classmates realize that they truly are loved with an everlasting love by the God who created them.

I believe we can see that world in our lifetime - join me in reaching our world!

Andy George

GO



We Are Commissioned to Go

¹⁸Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Let's not overcomplicate the beautiful simplicity of these verses. We are simply commissioned and called to GO. Additionally, we have been called to:

Make Disciples

Do not let this intimidate you. You do not need a masters or PhD in disciple making. I think a lot of people feel like they do not have what it takes to disciple a person. In its basic definition, discipling someone can be as simple as walking alongside a person as they grow in Christ.

In the Bible, Paul likens our lives to a race in which we are running to win a prize. The prize in our race is getting to spend eternity with Jesus (1 Corinthians 9:24). Each one of us is at a different point in that race, but the goal is not to outrun each other; it is to finish together. Think about the difference it makes when you run beside someone and cheer them on as they race. We can all find someone who is at a point in the race where we once were. Encourage those people by using your own experience as a baseline of inspiration.

Take a moment to write down the names of a few people in your circle that could benefit by someone like you walking with them:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Spend time praying about approaching one or all of the people you listed to see what they may need to help them succeed.

I find that if you simply listen to someone's story, it doesn't take long to find out what they may need or want in their discipleship journey. Once you do that, there are many helpful resources available. We regularly use [**Right Now Media**](#) which has thousands of resources for individuals, small groups, families and children.

While we are on the subject of discipleship. Who is helping you on your personal journey? I am strong believer that we should all *be* discipling someone and be disciplined *by* someone. What are you doing to become more like Jesus in your discipleship pathway? Do you even have a clear pathway? It is hard to give away to others what we ourselves do not have. It is much easier to bring someone to place we have already experienced.

Baptize

Baptisms are one of my favorite events! Whether it's baptizing someone, being a part of their spiritual growth or just witnessing someone being baptized, there are fewer things that bring me as much excitement and joy. It is an important part of a Christian's walk. Even Jesus himself was baptized.

¹³ Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. ¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

Matthew 3:13-17

Baptism is such a wonderful picture of an outward expression of an inward decision. It is a visual representation of going under the water with all our sin, guilt and shame and then rising up out of the water clean, new and forgiven. What a great picture of a life that has been changed.

So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:11

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17

You may not end up being the person (or the church) that baptizes a particular person. However, God can use you to play an instrumental role in getting someone to that point in their relationship with Jesus.

In fact, let me ask you a question. If you have made a decision to follow Jesus, have you been baptized? If not, what are you waiting for? Make plans to do this as part of your journey as well!

Teach

We are called to teach Scripture to others. As we are growing in Christ, it is so important that we have solid theology (the study of God) and doctrine (beliefs).

Of course this has to begin with the right belief about the Word of God itself. According to 2 Timothy:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:16

Once we have the right understanding of the power of the infallible Word of God, we can then stand upon its truths.

²Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. ³For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

2 Timothy 4:2-4

The world is constantly trying to redefine God and His Word, but we have the great assurance that we do not have to define what God has already made clear. God's Word is truth. However, we cannot let our guard down. The enemy is on constant attack.

⁸Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Let's take a look at the Garden of Eden for a moment. Can you imagine the incredible beauty of the Garden? It was the place where God's creation was born and the perfect environment for Him to make man and women. God designed this beautiful environment just for Adam and Eve where He could walk with them and where they could love and be loved. It was perfection...until sin entered into the picture.

Satan (Lucifer) has been against humanity since the very beginning. We learn that Lucifer was thrown out of heaven with a third of the angels for wanting to be like God and for thinking he could be better than God.

**“How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning!
You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations
of the world.”**

Isaiah 14:12

“Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning!”

Luke 10:18

**His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them
to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give
birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.**

Revelation 12:4

Satan quickly went to work in the Garden to deceive God’s beloved creations. We see Satan in Genesis 3:

**The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God
had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must
not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”**

Genesis 3:1

I want you to really notice what Satan did in this moment. Go back and examine what he said and how he twisted the question. He easily got Eve (and then Adam) to question God’s very word by simply saying, “Did God really say...?”

Sadly, all he needed to do was to get Eve to doubt God at His word. I would suggest that Satan still uses this same tactic today. If he can just get people to doubt God’s word, then we begin to doubt His goodness and His plan. By simply causing us to doubt, he diverts us from the race we were meant to run and leads us down the wide path that ultimately leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14).

It comes as no surprise that there is a cultural attack on God’s very word. We can see this in almost every area of life. This is why being grounded in God’s word is so critical.

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

Psalms 119:105

The hope is to hide God’s word in our hearts, that way we will not walk away from it.

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:11

The word of God is our sword. It is our weapon against the enemy. Jesus himself used Scripture to fight the enemy when He was tempted in the wilderness after forty days of fasting (see Matthew 4:1-11).

Look at the description of God's word in Hebrews.

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Hebrews 4:12

The Power to Go

Here's the great news...we don't have to do all of this alone!

Jesus has commissioned us with His Authority:

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth."

Matthew 28:18

Jesus has promised us that He would not leave us:

"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:20

Do not miss the importance of this! Jesus has given us His power to go and make disciples. When you embrace and walk in this truth, it takes the pressure off trying to do all that Jesus asks of you in your own strength.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

We have already been given the Holy Spirit's power to accomplish our mission of being witnesses and telling people about Jesus. Unfortunately, there are many believers who walk around with the Holy Spirit but without utilizing the power.

It is hard to grasp the enormity of what has been given to us. Be encouraged! The same power which rose Jesus from the dead is the very power that is inside of every believer (Romans 8:11). That is the power you and I will need to see our friends, neighbors, coworkers, and communities changed.

The Holy Spirit will guide us into the mess of humanity. Does that shock you? Just think about Jesus and the people He was guided and directed to encounter: the woman at the well, the adulterous woman, the sick, the blind, beggars, thieves, criminals, the lost, and the weary. All these people, and more, had an encounter with Jesus that changed their lives for eternity.

So, when, and if, you accept the commission to go into the world to share the Good News, it is the Holy Spirit who will guide and empower you to accomplish the mission.

One of the most brilliant theologians, Paul, wrote the majority of the New Testament. He penned these words regarding the Holy Spirit's power:

¹When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. ²For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. ³I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. ⁴And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. ⁵I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

A clear mark of being led and empowered by the Holy Spirit is the demonstration of the Spirit's power in your life. You cannot do it in your own strength. I like to think of it this way: God adds His SUPER to my NATURAL.

In my every day, natural life I need the Holy Spirit to give me power. Could I survive a day without walking in this power? Most likely, but the power I receive from the Holy Spirit enables me to live each day with authority, strength and purpose.

As you accept Christ's mission to Go and step into this often messy and difficult world, may you also be guided by and empowered by His Spirit.

RECOGNIZE

RECOGNIZE

The acronym REACH was created to help remind and encourage you to follow a few very practical ideologies to fulfill the **commission**.

Recognize People

If you are really going to reach people with the Good News of Jesus, the first **step is to Recognize People**. When I say “recognize”, I don’t mean that you are just supposed to “see” that someone is there. Rather, you are to acknowledge and appreciate others as valid, special and unique individuals.

When Jesus encountered the Rich Young Man, the **Bible says,**

Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him.

Mark 10:21

We may run across hundreds and maybe even thousands of people every day, but do we really see and value them? I believe we should seek to see people as God sees them. He has created every person in His own image and loves each **one dearly**.

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

Think about that for just a moment...out of everything God created, it is only humanity that He created in His own image.

¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. ¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Psalms 139:13-16

Not only has He created every person, He also has a plan for everyone.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Also, every person has a soul and each soul will spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell.

Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:28

You truly recognize an individual once you see them as a person, with a soul, that has been created by God with a plan and a purpose.

Additionally, it is important to take the next step of getting to know people by name. When you can put a name with a face, you get closer to recognizing and caring for their very soul.

At the beginning of this year, I asked each person in our church to recognize and write down the names of five people they would like to see come to know Jesus this year. They were to choose people who were within their sphere of influence where God could use them to REACH these people.

I encourage you to take a few minutes right now and prayerfully consider who your own five are. Then write their names down in the space provided. As we journey through the remaining aspects of REACH, it will become more critical to actually know and recognize people. My prayer for you is that God will immediately put the names of five people on your heart and in the front of your mind!

Who Are Your Five?

Write down the names of five people you would like to see come to know Jesus this year.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

EMPATHIZE

EMPATHIZE

Empathize - Lead with Love

One of the most powerful ways to REACH people is do so with empathy. Empathy leads the way to love, respect, honesty, and a true desire to see people reached with the Good News.

I do not recall ever seeing anyone reached with the Good News of Christ's love for them by yelling, fighting, or hate. In fact, that is the complete opposite of what Jesus has modeled. No matter how hard you try to justify it another way, you cannot separate the fact that Jesus called us to love one another. This command to love includes loving those who are difficult, those who are your enemies, and those with whom you may disagree.

If we are really going to REACH our communities and the world, we will have to do it with Empathy and Love. Empathy, by a simple definition, is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. This does not mean you have to agree with another person's position, perception, or actions and lifestyle. It does, however, give you an ability to speak into their life.

Jesus has commanded us to love the way He loves:

³⁴“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

John 13:34-35

That verse also indicates that, as disciples, we are marked and known by our love for one another. Now, loving others does not seem like a problem when we are loving our friends and others who are like us. But we are also called to love our enemies:

⁴³ “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!”

Matthew 5:43-44

Ultimately, you and I are able to love people because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). It is only because of His love that we are able to love others. In our own ability and strength, we will not be able to love and have empathy the way Jesus does.

In order to reach people, we must be able to connect emotionally with them. Having empathy helps us celebrate and grieve with others:

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Romans 12:15 (ESV)

We REACH others through love and compassion, rather than judgment. Jesus Christ has already set the example of incredible empathy and understanding through His sacrifice and love for us. Empathy enables us to be kind and forgiving to others, since God has been so forgiving to each one of us.

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

We can carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and have compassion for people the way Jesus does (Matthew 9:36).

It humbles me to remember that while you and I were lost, God had mercy on us and proved His love by sending Jesus.

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:6-8

At the foot of cross, all ground is equal. We are all lost without the grace, mercy, and forgiveness of God through Jesus.

It is important to realize that we are who we are only because God is who He is. We should have the same feeling He has for us when we view and interact with God's creation. Jesus wept with those who wept and was constantly moved by compassion towards the lost and needy. He came for the sick and the broken...He came for me and for you. He has invited us to join Him on mission to reach people with that same posture and heart.

ACTIVELY

Listen and Pray

ACTIVELY

Listen and Pray

Actively Listen and Pray

When you spend time with people, especially your “five,” inevitably you will begin to hear their stories, journeys, and needs. Do not miss hearing what they are sharing with you. In order to really grasp what someone is saying, you must practice *active listening*.

Active listening is when you talk less and listen more.

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

James 1:19

Active listening requires being present in the moment in order to listen and understand. Listening to someone shows that we love them, that we care for them, and that we respect them. We should not be listening, just so we can speak.

When we really are listening, we show that we value that person and what they are saying. If we want to really reach people and lead them to Christ, then we must add value into their life. People need to matter and they want to be heard. By simply valuing the current conversation, you communicate that you care.

You have heard it said that people do not care how much you know, until they know how much you care. This is so incredibly true. If we want to share what we know about Jesus, then the person we are talking with must feel that we actually do care about them. Once that trust and value is established, it is wonderfully amazing at how much people will open up and respond.

Here are a few ways to show someone that you are actively listening and are present in the moment:

- Put your phone away. There are few things more distracting today than our attachment to mobile phones. Think about how many times a minute you glance at your phone or are on your phone. When you are listening to someone, I recommend that you do not have your phone on the table or even out, and certainly do not keep checking it. It devalues the conversation.
- Pay attention to your facial expressions. It is easy to be listening but not really looking at the person, so be certain to make eye contact and give the proper expression. You can be speaking one thing, but your face is saying something completely different.

- Repeat back what you hear throughout the conversation. This is a great way to really let someone know you are listening. To say, “so, what I hear you saying is...” will continue to engage them.
- Watch your body language. Your body language shows how you are listening: Are you in an open or a closed position? If your arms and legs are crossed, you will come across as defensive or closed. When your arms are open, relaxed or down, you will appear friendly and receiving. I know it’s a subtlety, but it genuinely does show care and value. It is also important to not be jittery or constantly moving around. You will seem impatient, distracted, or disinterested.
- Don’t come across rushed or looking for a way out of the conversation. Again, this will devalue the person who is talking. This also applies to interrupting them while they are talking.
- Avoid talking about yourself too much or trying to one up them in their story. We have all experienced this at some point. You can probably recall a time when you may have been opening up about something going on in your life and the other person chimed in with, “Oh yeah, well this is what happened to me....” You instantly feel like your story or problem has been completely overshadowed by the other person’s big experience.

As you listen, pay attention to what their needs are. Begin to pray specifically for them by name and need. There is power in prayer! Imagine what God could do as we commit to praying specifically for people.

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

1 Timothy 2:1

Prayer List

Write down specific needs and prayer requests for each of your five people.

	Name	Need	Prayer Request
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

CRAFT

Your Story

CRAFT

Your Story

Craft Your Story

Here is the bottom-line question I have for you: Can you share your story (testimony) in five minutes? Can you do it in a way that makes sense and is clear?

Before we work through an exercise to craft your story, let's talk about the difference between our universal common testimony and your individual testimony.

As believers, we all share in a powerful testimony.

⁹ Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the greater testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. ¹⁰ All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son. ¹¹ And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

1 John 5:9-12

³ Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. ⁴ But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, ⁵ he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. ⁶ He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁷ Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

Titus 3:3-7

What a powerful and life-giving testimony we have! God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to remove our sins, save us, and make us His own for all eternity. This is the testimony every believer has!

But, we all also have a unique story. This is the testimony of what God has done in your personal life. There is something incredibly powerful about sharing your personal story with someone.

2 Timothy 1:8 tells us to “never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord.” We must not ever be embarrassed of our testimony.

If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.

Luke 9:26

Crafting Your Story

Let me help you craft and fine tune your testimony. Your story should include:

- Life without Jesus
- How you met Jesus
- Life with Jesus
- Your emphasis should be on meeting Jesus and living life with Jesus

This would be a great time to use the space provided to write this out and then practice it. That’s right...practice! Find someone and then practice sharing your story to them. Let them give you feedback, then fine tune it until telling it is as natural as breathing for you.

Life Without Jesus: Write a brief summary of what your life was like before you came to know Jesus. This is not a time to glorify your sinful past. Use it as a beginning to your transformational story.

How I Met Jesus: Write down how you came to know Jesus as your Savior.

How I Met Jesus (continued)

Life With Jesus: Write down what your life has been like with Jesus.

I want to give you some encouragement. *Everyone* has a story, and *every* story matters to God. Don't ever feel ashamed of your story. I say this because I often talk with people who still feel guilty for their past. Listen, that was removed when you were forgiven. Do not allow the enemy to define you by your past sins.

On the other side, many times I talk with people who feel they don't have a testimony because their life is too "ordinary." The people who tend to feel this way were often brought up in church and came to know Jesus at an early age. Can I tell you something? That is an incredible testimony of God's grace on your life. Your story is still a beautiful example of God's character...don't let the enemy rob you of your voice either!

HELP
Serve Others

HELP

Serve Others

Help Others - Share Your Story and Serve Them

This is where things get very practical. You've recognized your five, allowed God to give you empathy and love for them, actively listened and prayed for them, and your story has been crafted. Now it is time to show them Jesus by serving them and sharing your story with them.

Jesus voluntarily and lovingly served others while He was here on earth. One of the ways we imitate Jesus best is in the way we ourselves serve. Jesus was the ultimate example of a servant leader and left us this simple instruction:

²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.

Matthew 20:26-27

Because you have been actively listening to people, you should now know a few ways in which you can serve them. Let's not overcomplicate this. A key to identify ways to serve is to always be paying attention to where God may already be at work and then join Him there. If you hear that someone is in need, fill the need. If you hear of someone that can't do something, try to do that thing for them. Of course, this will be different for everyone based on need and personal resources.

Everyone has something they can offer in servanthood. I have found that the simplest ways of serving often make the biggest impact in someone's life.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

1 Peter 4:10

This requires you and me to live with our eyes, heart, and hands open. We must pay attention to what God is doing and having the heart and willingness to serve where we can. In a world that is filled with selfishness and an "every man for himself" mentality, we have a great opportunity to serve and show others something different.

However, you cannot serve with the intent of being recognized or served in return. Many times, you may serve someone and never even get a response. That is completely okay, because that is not why you are serving. You serve others to show them Jesus.

So, what is something you can do *today* to serve someone?

When you serve others, I guarantee you will be able to share your story with them at some point. Here is something to keep in mind as you serve: *Always look for an opportunity to share your story.* Sometimes you may only get to share a part of it. You may share part of the universal testimony all believers have or it may be a part of your personal story. Every time you share (even part of) your story, you honor and glorify God!

As I'm writing this, the Lord put on my heart to encourage those of you whose story may involve a level of pain or suffering. The longer I am in ministry, the more heart wrenching stories I hear. But I have also seen how God can take your greatest pain and turn it into the most beautiful testimony. In 2 Corinthians, we are encouraged to not waste our suffering. We can use our experience to help someone who may be suffering the same way we did.

⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. ⁵ For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:4-5

God may bring someone into your life who **needs** to hear your story! I know how encouraged I have been when I am struggling and meet someone who has gone through something similar. They understand how I feel. I can have conversations with them and know that they truly empathize with me in a way that someone else cannot.

Every time you share your story with others, you help them see a glimpse of what God is like and what He can do in someone's life.

REACH

REACH

REACH People

Let me simply close by encouraging you to continue to REACH people with the Good News. The reality is that there is no shortage of people who need Jesus. There are simply not enough Christians living intentionally to reach them. The book of Matthew summed this up in a beautiful way:

³⁵ Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸ So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

Matthew 9:35-38

Are you willing to accept this call? Are you willing to walk into the mess of humanity? Are you willing to have enough compassion to share the Good News? Are you willing to be a worker for Jesus?

Let's accept the mission to Go, walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and REACH people with the Good News of Jesus!