

# GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: LIVING ON MISSION / SERIES: ACTS

## BIG TRUTH: GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO

Zechariah 8:23; Genesis 26:24; Psalm 139:17-18; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 28:20

## BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 18:9-10

*“And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.’”*

## BIG IDEAS

- Be occupied with the Word.
- Be courageous in the face of persecution.
- Be bold to make Jesus known.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: ACTS 18:1-23; JOSHUA 1:5-9

## KNEEL: LIVING ON MISSION

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28) and to use our influence to lead others to do the same. We know that as we pursue a life of worship, we will pursue a life of both wisdom and mission. Throughout this year we will study and pursue the wisdom of God through the book of Proverbs and the mission of God through the book of Acts, and we will learn how both of these things must inform and shape our influence as Jesus followers!

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know...

- The gospel has the power to turn the world upside down.
- They are empowered and chosen to be a gospel witness in the world.
- Our salvation has come by grace alone.



### Every student should feel...

- Comfort that the Lord is with them wherever they go.
- Hope in the God of salvation.
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone.



### Every student should strive to...

- Read, study, and meditate on the entire book of Acts.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Pray consistently for boldness to make Jesus known.



### Every student should want to...

- To pursue faithfulness in living on mission.
- To share the gospel with people in their lives who do not know Jesus.
- To sacrifice their personal freedoms for the sake of the gospel

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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**GOD IS WITH YOU  
WHEREVER YOU GO****BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 18:9-10**

*“And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.’”*

**God works in all places.**

*“And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you and no one will attack you to harm you...”*

- God is at work always and in all places. When Paul was on mission for the Lord, he faced much persecution, but God was always at work in Paul’s life and ministry. Wherever Paul was, God was at work.
- God works in all places. In our lives, it will seem as if God is not at work at times, but God is always at work. He works in difficult times and easy times. We do not always see what He is doing, but we can always trust that He is at work.

**God goes before His people.**

*“...for I am with you and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”*

- God spoke to Paul and comforted him by promising him that there was no reason for him to be afraid. God had gone before Paul and prepared the way for him. God goes before His people and prepares the way for them. He is for His people and for the mission that He gives them.
- He is an eternal God who is present everywhere. This means that He has already gone before all He has called to His purposes and prepared the way for them.

**God always helps His people on His mission.**

*“Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”*

- When God calls us to do something for Him, it’s easy to believe that the mission He’s given us is our mission. What is true is that the mission is God’s. This means that He is about His mission more than we could ever be about His mission because He is perfect and does not have a dualism about Him. He does not battle sin like we do.
- Because God is about His mission, He is always for us as we are on His mission. He helps us and goes before us and with us. He works in our lives and guides us along the way.

# GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO

## BIG IDEA #1: BE OCCUPIED WITH THE WORD.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

As a follower of Jesus, we can trust Him with our lives. Not only can we trust Him with our lives, but we are called to give Him our lives. We are called to die to ourselves and to follow Him. In Acts 18:1-23, Paul exemplifies what this looks like. He journeyed from Athens to Corinth telling others the Gospel. Paul spent his time in the synagogue reasoning with the Jews and when they rejected the truth, he turned to the Gentiles, sharing Jesus with them. In Acts 18:5, we find that Paul is in Corinth occupied with Word of God. As he is testifying of the work of Christ, he is finding his strength and boldness from his study and occupation with the Word. Paul does not look to himself or to others to find truth or even strength to share Christ so boldly. Instead, he looks to the Word and occupies himself with it. By occupying himself with the Word, he draws strength from the truth and is emboldened to share in any circumstance.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What distractions keep you from reading and studying God's Word regularly?**

Our focus keeps us from reading and studying God's Word daily. When we are occupied with worldly things, we aren't occupied with God's Word. Colossians 3:2 and Titus 2:11-12 remind us to focus our minds and hearts on the things above, not on the things here on earth.

### [ THIS ]

To be occupied with something is to allow it to engage our attention and energies. When we are occupied with the Word, it engages our attention. Our focus is on knowing and understanding the Word of God. We make time to study it and read it. We remove other things from our lives to engage our minds and attention on the Word. We meditate on the Word, focusing our attention on passages for periods of time to allow the Word to saturate our hearts and minds. When we are occupied with the Word, we use our energy to study it. We prepare our bodies and minds so that we can fully engage in a study of the Word. We do this to know God. We do this to allow ourselves to grow in our relationship with God. The more we engage in a study of the Word of God, the more intimate our relationship with God will be. As we grow in our relationship, we grow in our understanding that God is with us everywhere.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **In what specific situations do you doubt God's presence with you? What usually leads you to doubt that He is with you always?**

When we fear or face adversity, we often doubt that God is with us. When we associate God's presence with an emotion, we may doubt He is with us in the absence of that emotion. Psalm 42:8 is a great reminder that God is always with us wherever we are.

#### **Read Joshua 1:8. From this verse, what promise and encouragement can you take in living boldly for Jesus?**

God promised to be with Joshua and the Israelites as they crossed into the Promised Land. He promises to be with His chosen people who follow Him always. When we are reminded that God kept His promises to people who have gone before us, we can be encouraged that He is keeping His promises to us now. God's saying is His doing.

1. Acts 18:5: *Just as Paul was occupied with the Word, we should be occupied with the Word of God.*

# GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO

## BIG IDEA #2: BE COURAGEOUS IN THE FACE OF PERSECUTION.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In Acts 18:9-10, Paul receives a vision from the Lord one night while he is preaching the Gospel in Corinth. In the vision, the Lord tells Paul to continue preaching the Gospel without fear. The Lord tells Paul to not be silent because God has many people in the city who are His people. He also tells Paul that He is with him and that no one will attack him to harm him. This would have been good news to Paul who had faced much persecution and would face much more after that. This vision was a promise to Paul and a reminder that even in the face of persecution, God was with him. God was at work in the cities and towns Paul was preaching the Gospel. God's promise to Paul wasn't that he would not face attack or persecution, but that no one would harm him. Paul continued preaching the Gospel and was courageous in the face of persecution because he trusted that God was with him wherever he went. He believed that in all the circumstances he faced, God was there. God is present with His people in every circumstance. He does not leave His people to face their trials alone.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**When Paul received his vision from the Lord, what did God promise him? Why is this promise encouraging to believers today?**

In Acts 18:9-10, Paul was promised that God would be with him as he preached the Gospel. Paul did not have to fear, nor did he have to worry about being harmed. He could continue preaching the Gospel without fear because God was already at work in the city. Today, we can take courage because God is still at work in the world around us.

### [ THIS ]

Being courageous in the face of persecution is something that every believer can do. God's promise to be with His people in every circumstance is as true today as it was in Paul's day. In Joshua 1:9, God promises the Israelites and Joshua, their leader that He would be with them as they crossed into the Promised Land. He commanded them to not fear and to choose to be courageous. This promise is still true for us today. God is with His people. Choosing to be courageous does not mean we will not face difficulties. It does not mean we will not have struggle in this life. What it means is that we choose to trust that no matter what we face, God is always with us. He has not left us. When we walk in this truth and trust this, we will share the Gospel boldly and bravely with great courage as those who lived before us have done.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How can fear and worry often keep us from even trying to share the Gospel?**

Often, we let fear and worry about what might happen keep us from even attempting to share the Gospel. This can paralyze us. Isaiah 41:10, 2 Timothy 1:7, and Psalm 56:3 show us that God is with us faithfully and we have nothing to fear when we trust in Him. We can always share the Gospel boldly when we do so trusting that He is working on behalf of His people.

**What is it important for us to remember that God is with us in every circumstance?**

Philippians 4:6-7 and Deuteronomy 31:6 teach us that we do not have to fear, but we can have courage. It is important for us to remember this because God has called us to share His Gospel in all the world under every circumstance. We will face trials and we must persevere in these trials.

2. Acts 18:9: *Even when Paul was persecuted, he continued to share the Gospel boldly.*

# GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO

## **BIG IDEA #3: BE BOLD TO MAKE JESUS KNOWN.<sup>3</sup>**

### **[ THIS ]**

Boldness is necessary to live for Jesus in this world. 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us that God has not given us a spirit of fear. The Holy Spirit who lives inside of us is not timid or fearful. Instead, we have been given a Spirit of boldness. In Joshua 1:5-9, God encourages and promises His people that He will always be with them as they enter the Promised Land. This promise comes with instructions for the people to choose boldness. It is not enough for the people to believe that God is with them, but action is required from them. They are required to act in boldness. When God reveals truth about Himself, a response is required from His people. We respond in worship and obedience to His Word because He is faithful and true. If God says that He is with us and there is no need to fear, then we must act with courage and live boldly for Him. Joshua responded to God's promise by leading the Israelites into the Promised Land courageously and boldly, not because they found this courage within themselves, but because God had said to be courageous.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**Why does God's command to be bold and courageous in Joshua 1:9 require a response from His people?**

Luke 6:46 reminds us that God requires us to obey His commands. We cannot say He is our Lord and not do what He asks of us. When God tells us that He is faithful and we should live in boldness, we should respond by living in boldness. Psalm 119:30 and John 14:15 also remind us to live in obedience to the truth that God reveals to us.

### **[ THIS ]**

Acts 18:1-23 shows us the boldness of Paul and the other disciples as they continued sharing the Gospel in the midst of trials and difficult circumstances. Paul's response to God promising to be with him was to live boldly and to continue sharing the truth of Jesus without pause. Though Paul faced persecution and was attacked, God's promise was true, and he was not harmed. As Paul was boldly proclaiming, God protected him from harm by using Gallio to prevent any further attack on him. Paul could have lived in fear and with timidity and he would have missed the opportunity to live in obedience to God. Instead, he lived boldly and shared the Gospel with courage. God's Gospel was proclaimed, and Paul was obedient to God's commands. We can follow Paul's example and live boldly, proclaiming God's truth because He has promised to be with us everywhere we are.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some of the reasons we choose not to make Jesus known?**

We choose not to share Jesus because we are occupied with other things, or we fear the response of others. Hebrews 13:5, Colossians 3:2, and Luke 12:29 remind us that we should set our minds on the things above and seeking God's kingdom. When we do this, we will make Jesus known.

**What are some of the results when we boldly proclaim Jesus to the world?**

Romans 10:13-14 tells us that anyone who calls on Jesus for salvation will be saved. When we proclaim the truth of Jesus boldly, the consequence is that people will hear the Gospel and believe it. The Kingdom of God will expand and God will be glorified in the world.

3. Acts 18:9: Paul was bold to tell others about Jesus. We should be bold to tell others about Jesus.