

Go Green:
Living your life in healthy community

4-Week Sermon Series Overview:

Week 1 – Go Green: Building a healthy environment

Week 2 – Go Green: Building a healthy you

Week 3 – Go Green: Building healthy relationships

Week 4 – Go Green: Building healthy community

Psalm 8:1-9 (NIV)

¹ Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴ **what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?**

⁵ **You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.**

⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,

⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹ Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8 principles:

- Physical Environment: In verses 6-8 we saw that we are responsible for caring for our planet.
- Our Personal Lives: In verse 2 we see how we are to take care of ourselves.
- Our Relationships: In verse 4 we see that loving others and learning from others with our heads and heart is essential for building healthy relationships.
- **Our Community: In verse 4 we realize that we were made to grow in community and we were made to go into our community.**

Jesus' strategic plan that changed the world:¹

- He made people a priority John 15:13
- He began with a few disciples Luke 6:13-16
- He stayed together with them through the learning process Matthew 20:17
- He gave them His most valuable asset: His time Matthew 12:46-50
- He met with them individually and as a group Luke 8:1-3
- He gave them tangible assignments to stretch them as people John 4:1-26
- He gave them tangible assignments to grow their faith Mark 6:7
- He gave them tangible assignments to express their commitment to God Luke 17:14
- He kept growing them in God's way of grace and their knowledge of God's Truth Luke 10:17-27
- He helped His disciples carry their burdens Luke 22:31-34
- He let them carry on in the work with the help of the Holy Spirit John 14:26

¹ Robert Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism* (Grand Rapids: Revell, 1993).

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***As Jesus' ambassadors in our modern world,
here at Foothills we are actively building the church
to practically imitate Jesus' strategy.***

1. **Jesus created a spiritual community for you to join in order to grow.**
 - a. We grow in our faith best in small communities of faith.
 - b. People new to faith are like spiritual children and need a safe and challenging place to grow.
 - c. Why I go to church nearly every weekend:
 - i. God sets the agenda for my encounter with His Truth.
 - ii. God sets the agenda for my serving others.
 - d. *The "Christian Walk" is not a self-directed, isolated affair.***
2. **Jesus created a spiritual family in order for you to learn and practice love, learn and practice forgiveness, and learn and live Biblical Truth.**
3. **Jesus created a spiritual family for you in order for you to discover your mission/purpose in life.**
 - a. You are here for a reason, you are not a mistake.
 - b. Being in a group is where you discover and sharpen your spiritual gifts as you put them into practice.
 - c. All people need to move to a more mature stage of faith by practicing their spiritual gifts.
 - d. Maturity is discovering God's purpose for the world, and how you fit into His purpose personally.
 - i. You cannot find your personal purpose apart from His purpose for His church.
 - ii. When we ask and examine this question, this is when you grow the most in your faith.
 - iii. If you are in a small group, or leading small group, you can never forget that your community of faith has been given a mission by Jesus. We are all on a mission.
 - e. It is the mission of Jesus that keeps your small group healthy, vibrant, and moving forward in the love of Christ.
 - i. Who is your group praying for?
 - ii. Who is your group trying to include?
 - iii. What has your group done in order to bless the community around you?

Divine Direction is your opportunity to lean in to God and lean in with this church.

1. This is your opportunity to take a great step forward. We are offering you an opportunity.
 - a. If you are unconnected, just moved here, searching for something more, then here is your opportunity.
 - b. August 25th. If you didn't sign the card to RSVP, go to the welcome table in the Atrium.
2. As Pastor Doug has been saying for many years, this is your faith.
 - a. Foothills is not here to tell you what to think or do, but to pastor and coach you in experiencing the fullness of your faith, walking in every good thing God has for you.

Next Week: Pastor Doug will be back next week and launching a new series. Instead of "going back to school," let's go back to growing.