



The Engaging Youth Series

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE





Introduction

The call of the church, and of youth ministry, is to intentionally move young believers from evangelism to discipleship to developing them as leaders. In Nazarene Youth International these three practices have been affirmed as our core strategies for many years. Also known as BE DO GO, we are reimagining what youth ministry can look like when youth are actively engaged in evangelism (BE), discipleship (DO), and leadership development (GO). All of the BE DO GO resources are created to help youth reflect on and embody the practices of evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development.

Through the videos, "BE: Flame," "DO: Footprints," and "GO: Basin and Towel," and the accompanying discussion guides, we connect the core strategies of evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development to their corresponding icons. There is much to unpack in the imagery of evangelism as a flame, discipleship as a pair of footprints, and leadership development as a basin and towel. These videos and discussion guides are meant to be a starting place for a ongoing conversation within your youth ministry.

As you prepare for your time together, feel free to modify these discussion guides and use them however you want! In the "Lesson Connection" section, we have provided some basic Biblical background and commentary. This can be used as a launching point for a more fully developed sermon or merely as helpful information as you prepare for a time of discussion. The "Discussion Questions" are meant to be conversation prompts in your large group setting or within smaller groups. Finally, the "Optional Activity" is a hands-on way to provide an object lesson or creative illustration as you conclude your time of teaching and discussion. These may require more preparation or additional supplies.

It is our hope that as you use these discussion guides and other BE DO GO resources, these tools will help you reach youth for Christ, disciple them to become more like Jesus, and empower them for service through the church.

Nazarene Youth International



evangelism

be: flame | Video Discussion Guide

Scripture Focus

Acts 17:16-34

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. **'For in him we live and move and have our being.'** (Acts 17:26-28a, NIV)

Lesson Connection

In this passage, Paul is speaking to the leaders and philosophers of Athens. He was telling them about the One True God who created the universe and sent his Son to earth. But before Paul could evangelize to them, he took some time to **be** in their city. He got to know their culture and their customs before he talked to them about Jesus. Because Paul made an effort to **be** among them, his message about Christ was more powerful, and some of the people became believers after his speech (Acts 17:34).

This same idea could be applied to our lives: before we attempt to share the Gospel to others, we should first **be** a part of their lives. We can **be** the light of Christ to them by listening to their stories, caring about their struggles, and simply spending time with them.

St. Francis of Assisi is often credited as saying, "Share the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words." By **being** in relationship with God and **being** in relationship with others who do not yet know Christ, we are living out this mandate and spreading the love of Christ, even without saying a word.

Paul also recognized that God is not far from any of us, and that is in and through God we live and move and have our being. As Christians, we believe that every human is created in the image of God and has a spark of God living within them. When we become believers, we tend to that spark of God and fan the flame into a bright and strong light for Christ. By doing so, we **become** who God created us to be all along. When we evangelize, we are inviting others to also **be** who God created them to **be**, and to embrace that spark of light living in their own hearts. That is why **"BE"** is the first step in the life of a Christ-follower—before we do anything else, we must **be** one with Christ, united with God.

Discussion Questions (break into small groups if desired):

- As a child, you may have sang the song, "This Little Light of Mine" in church or Sunday school. (In case you don't know the song, the lyrics are included below.) In what ways is that children's song similar to the words in the video you just watched ("BE: Flame")? How does "letting your light shine" relate to evangelism?
- In the video, the speaker says that our job is to be God's light in the dark places of the world. What are the dark places—the outside places and ignored places—in your world?



evangelism

be: flame | Video Discussion Guide

- Often in evangelism, we want to charge ahead with our own timing and our own agendas. Why do you think that is the case? Why is it important to wait on God when practicing evangelism?
- The video uses the phrase, "Be an authentic follower of Jesus." What do you think it means to be an authentic follower of Jesus? Gives some examples of what that looks like (and doesn't look like). How does being an inauthentic follower of Jesus hurt our efforts of evangelism?
- When is it hard to practice being a light for Christ in the world?
- How does knowing that every person is created in God's image impact your perspective on evangelism?
- As Nazarenes, we believe in a concept called "prevenient grace." This is the belief that the Holy Spirit is constantly working in people's lives, even before we speak a word to them in our efforts to be a witness for Christ. In prevenient grace, God is going before us before we do the good and hard work of evangelism. How does knowing that God's prevenient grace is always at work make you feel about evangelism? How does the Holy Spirit empower us as we evangelize to others?

Optional Activity: Candles in a Dark Room

Your church might do a candlelit service around Christmas as a reminder that Christ came into the darkness to be the Light for the world. In the same way, use this activity to remind your group that we are now called to be God's lights in a dark world.

Prep: Before the group meets, hang up papers or blankets over the windows to block any light from entering the room (if it is going to be daylight outside when you meet). Set up one pillar candle near the front of the room to be used as the Christ Candle. Gather enough small taper candles for each participant to have one. (You might want to put the candles in paper plates or other holders to make sure that the wax does not drip on their hands or the floor.) Make sure that you have matches or a working candle lighter!

Following the discussion time, gather the group back together. Turn out all of the lights in the room, making it as dark as possible. Allow the darkness to permeate the room for a few minutes.

Say, "Often our world feels like a very dark and lonely place. We are constantly confronted with pain, fear, destruction, violence, and emptiness. We may even wonder where God is in all of this darkness.

"But we believe that Jesus came into this dark, lonely world to be a light that leads us to life. As it says in John 1, 'In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:4-5, NIV)."

At this point, light the Christ Candle near the front of the room.

Say, "Just one small light in a dark room can have so much power. Already, the darkness seems to be fading and moving back. But imagine what could happen if many more candles were lit!



evangelism

be: flame | Video Discussion Guide

Now, light one of the student's candles, while saying, "You are a child of the light." Have them in turn light one another's candles while repeating the phrase, "You are a child of the light."

Once everyone's candles are lit, say: "If we are living out Christ's light that is inside each of us, the darkness is less scary and intimidating. Together, we can be a powerful force for Christ, simply by being one with Him and living out his light in the world."

Please take pictures of your candlelight service and share them on social media using the hashtag **#bedogo.*

Close your time together by singing the song, "This Little Light of Mine":

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, shine, shine
Let it shine!

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, shine, shine
Let it shine!

Out there in the dark, I'm gonna let it shine
Out there in the dark, I'm gonna let it shine
Out there in the dark, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, shine, shine
Let it shine!

(lyrics from <https://genius.com/Traditional-folk-this-little-light-of-mine-lyrics>)



discipleship

do: footprints | Video Discussion Guide

Scripture Focus

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24, NIV)

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1, NIV)

To this you were called, **because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.** (1 Peter 2:21, NIV)

Lesson Connection

Do you find it hard to be a follower? Walking in someone else's footprints isn't always the most fun thing to do. We are tempted to forge our own paths, carve our own trails, and leave our own footprints. But the life of a disciple is one that closely follows the path laid out before them; disciples walk in the footprints of their Teacher.

Jesus never promised that being his disciple was going to be easy. In fact, he said the complete opposite: he called his disciples to deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow in his footsteps—which ultimately led to death on a cross. In the same way, the first apostles knew what it meant to suffer for being a follower of Jesus. Both Peter and Paul (along with many other early believers) were killed for their faith in Christ. They followed Jesus' footsteps...right up until their own deaths.

In discipleship, we are committing to **do** the things that Jesus did. Because of this, discipleship is often tedious, messy, and painful. It is tedious, because true discipleship means that we are in for the long-haul: the day-in, day-out, step-by-step process of following after Jesus. Sometimes we want to run ahead and do our own thing. Sometimes it is hard to keep up. But through our daily surrender to Christ—by committing each day to **do** our lives modeled after Christ—we take another step toward him.

Discipleship is messy because it has to involve others. It often feels like Christianity would be much easier if it weren't for all these other Christians! But we become more fully Christ's disciples when we engage in the community of believers. Being a part of this community is difficult because people are broken and complicated—including ourselves! Relationships with others take time and patience. But in **doing** community with other disciples, we learn to depend upon one another. In community, we are able to point each other back to the road that leads to Christ.

Sometimes, discipleship is painful. Through our discipleship, we may even be united with Christ in his death. But there is hope: we will also be united with Christ in his resurrection. Death and suffering do not have the final word; Christ has won the ultimate victory. The road of discipleship is not an empty path that leads nowhere. If we persevere in following Jesus, we will join in Christ's joy and life everlasting—both here and now, and in the life to come.



discipleship

do: footprints | Video Discussion Guide

Discussion Questions (break into small groups if desired):

- In life, who seems to receive more praise: the leaders or the followers? How does being a follower of Christ upset this perspective?
- Through discipleship, we are called to "do" the things that Jesus did while he was here on earth. What do those things include? (See Luke 4:14-21 if you need a hint!)
- Do you think Christianity is more about what you believe or more about what you do? Explain your answer.
- As disciples of Christ, what does "doing life together" look like? Give some practical examples of what it means to be in a community of believers.
- There is a popular African proverb that says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." How does this saying relate to discipleship?
- In what ways would following Jesus be easier if we just did it alone? In what ways would it be harder, or even impossible, to follow Christ by yourself?
- Throughout the video, we hear this theme of discipleship being hard and taking time. In what ways has this been true in your life?
- Discipleship is a lifelong endeavor. In what ways have you grown closer to Christ by following after him? How do you picture grow

Optional Activity: Follow the Leader

You might choose to play this game at the beginning of your time together as an icebreaker activity.

Gather your group to stand in a circle facing inwards. (This game works best if your group has at least 8 people playing.) Pick someone to be the Guesser. Send them outside of the room. Choose someone to be the Leader. The Leader will be the one that sets the movements that everyone else will have to follow and mimic. Bring the Guesser back into the room and place them in the center of the circle.

When the round begins, have everyone start swinging their arms up and down. After a few seconds of this, the Leader will begin to do another movement, and everyone else in the circle will mimic the Leader's actions, without making it obvious who the Leader is. The Leader can choose an action such as: scratching their head, jumping up and down, kicking their foot, doing a dance move, waving their hand, making pointing motions, patting their stomach, or whatever. Once everyone is doing the same motion, the Leader will change their action to something new. Continue this pattern until the Guesser correctly identifies the Leader.

(full game description can be found at <http://www.group-games.com/action-games/follow-the-leader.html>)

Play a few rounds of the game, but allow time to discuss the following questions:

Ask the Guessers:

- Was it easy or hard to figure out who the Leader was? Why?
- What sort of clues did you have when determining who was the Leader?



discipleship

do: footprints | Video Discussion Guide

Ask the Leaders:

- Did you like having to pick the next movements for the group to follow?
- What sort of pressures did you face being the Leader?

Ask everyone:

- Which role was the most fun, being the Leader, being a Follower, or being the Guesser? Which was the most difficult?
- Why was it important to follow the Leader's actions as quickly and as carefully as possible? What would happen if you didn't follow the Leader's actions correctly?
- In your own life, is following something that comes easy or naturally? Why or why not?
- Would following Jesus be easy if everyone else was doing it too? How can we create a discipleship community where we all work together to follow Jesus?



leadership development

go: basin and towel | Video Discussion Guide

Scripture Focus

Matthew 10

Mark 6:6-13

"As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give" (Matthew 10:7-8, NIV)

Lesson Connection

In this passage, Jesus sends out his twelve disciples into the towns of Israel so that they could preach the message of repentance, heal the sick, and cast out demons. At this point in their journey, the disciples may have felt unprepared or under-equipped to do this very important work. After all, they had probably only been following Jesus for a few months themselves! Before that, they were just lowly fishermen, tax collectors, and other laborers.

What is more, Jesus doesn't exactly paint the best picture of what they could expect to experience. He told them to take nothing for the journey--no money, no food, not even an extra set of clothes (Mark 6:8-9). He warned them that they might be arrested, put on trial before local councils, and whipped in synagogues (Matthew 10:17). He assured them that they would be rejected by those they encountered. But still, Jesus told them to **go**.

Jesus is still telling his disciples today to **go** out into the world to preach the good news and bring healing to the sick. We may feel like those first disciples did: scared, unprepared, unsure of what to expect. We may even ask Jesus to send someone else or wait until we are older!

But Jesus does not send his disciples out alone. First, they had each other. The twelve disciples were instructed to travel in pairs, "two by two" (Mark 6:7). When we **go** out on Jesus' behalf, we have the community of disciples to support us. Secondly, Jesus assured them that the Spirit of God would be near them and would guide their words (Matthew 10:20). When we **go**, we too have the power of the Holy Spirit equipping us to say the right things as we speak on God's behalf. Finally, even as we **go**, we must follow in the example of Christ, who best modeled leadership by taking the humble position of a servant (Philippians 2:7) and washing his disciples feet (John 13:3-5).

Do not wait to **go** until you are older or have more experience or education. As Jesus told his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37). God is asking you to **go** right now, right where you are!



leadership development

go: basin and towel | Video Discussion Guide

Discussion Questions (break into small groups if desired):

- The video talks about washing others' feet as one of the dirtiest, grimmest roles that was typically reserved for the lowest servant. What are some of the roles or jobs today that seem like the least desirable position?
- Imagine you were one of the disciples, waiting on a servant to come and wash your feet. Then, Jesus himself steps forward and does this lowly task! How would that make you feel? What sort of emotions would you experience?
- How does being the leader mean being the least and a servant?
- In what ways have you felt unprepared or under equipped to be a leader?
- How can your current role prepare you for the tasks that lie up ahead? How can you be a leader even now?
- What scares you the most about going out into your world as a representative of Christ? What excites you the most about it?
- The last line of the video says, "Leadership development happens as we go." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your reasoning.
- Part of being a leader is helping to develop other leaders. Who is someone in your life right now that you can pour into and develop as a leader for Christ?

Optional Activity: Washing the Feet of Others

Perhaps your church holds a foot washing service on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter. Even if it is not Maundy Thursday, use the following activity as a way to remind the group that we are to be humble servant leaders in the image of Christ.

Throughout the history of the church, many Christians have participated in the practice of washing one another's feet. This tradition goes back to ancient times when wearing sandals while walking along dusty and dirty roads required travelers and guests to have their feet washed before entering a home or sitting down for dinner. Typically, this task was relegated to the lowliest servant of the house. Jesus, however, modeled true servant leadership when he took this task upon himself and washed his own disciples' feet at the Last Supper. Through a foot washing ceremony, we enact a physical reminder of this call to serve one another. Moreover, like Christ, we are not only called to engage in this singular act of servanthood, but we are to follow the humble example of his whole life.

Prep: Before the group meets, set up several foot washing stations (depending on the size of you group). Each station should have a chair, a jug or two of clean water, a large bowl or basin, and towels for drying. You may also want to put down a large towel or plastic tarp to catch water that drips. Be sure to have enough water and dry towels for the entire group. You may also want to assign some leaders to assist with emptying out the dirty water and refilling the empty water jugs.

Note: In some cultures, it would be more appropriate to have females only wash other females' feet, and have males only wash other males' feet. You may even choose to have separate rooms for ladies and men. Please do whatever feels most comfortable for your context.



leadership development

go: basin and towel | Video Discussion Guide

Following the discussion time, gather the group back together. Explain the history and significance of foot washing ceremonies throughout the history of the church. You may want to address the embarrassment that some participants might have in removing their socks and shoes and having their feet touched by someone else. Even though it may feel awkward at first, this can be a meaningful time of connection in community. Invite everyone to participate, but be sure to allow students to refrain from participating if they would prefer. Encourage participants to treat this time with sacred reverence by creating an atmosphere of prayer.

Read out loud John 13:1-16 as an introduction to your own time of foot washing. Afterwards, say, "We are going to wash each others' feet as Jesus has called us to do."

Invite participants to come forward to have their feet washed. You may choose to begin by having yourself and other leaders of the group wash each others feet before washing the feet of your youth. Or, after one person has had their own feet washed, they could wash the next person's feet.

Have each person that comes forward to have their feet washed remove their shoes and sit in the provided chair. The one washing will then pour clean water over their feet and into the basin below. Then, using a dry towel, the washer will gently dry the participant's feet.

Continue until everyone that wishes to participate has had their feet washed. If you would like, play soft worship music in the background during this time as it may take several minutes.

Close the time of foot washing with the following prayer (or use your own prayer):

"Most merciful God, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus to be a model and example for us. Help us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by laying down our lives and serving others. Let this time of foot washing not be a one-time act of humility, but an image and a symbol for our entire lives. May we go out into the whole world, empowered by your Holy Spirit and surrounded by our community of fellow disciples, as lights for your Kingdom. Go with us and give us courage when we are scared and strength when we are weak. We place our trust in you as you lead us onward. Amen."

***Please take pictures of your foot washing ceremony and share them on social media using the hashtag #bedogo.**