

# CFM CITY GROUPS

## Discussion Guide

**Pastor Doug**

**GO series, Week 1**

**“What are You Doing with Your Freedom?”**

**5/24/15**

### **What is the overall theme of the message?**

“Jesus died to give us freedom. How will we use it?” Jesus’ life mission was to give us freedom—spiritually first, and then politically, societally, etc. Freedom is a great gift, and the price He paid for it was high. We should honor His sacrifice by preaching the gospel to every creature. In our country, it costs us nothing to do this, but we often make excuses why we shouldn’t. Wherever we go, we need to be ambassadors for Christ. We are salt, seasoning whatever we touch. If Jesus died to set us free, He also set us free from fear that would hinder our witnessing.

### **So What? Why does this message matter to your life?**

The word “Go,” as in “Go and make disciples of all nations” is a word for us today, not just for the disciples of Jesus’ time. We need to be “going.” Our lives are a sermon, a message that people read. There are four gospels in the Bible but there is a fifth, lived through us. As we live out what Jesus preached, we become a living Word as He was. Most lost people will never read the actual written gospels in the Bible—at least, not at first—but they will “read” you. They will interpret your actions to see if being a Christian is a good idea or a bad one. In fact, many people’s very first exposure to the gospel is interacting with you.

### **Now What? How can you begin to put this into practice?**

You don’t need to quit your job to be a full time minister, to fulfill God’s word to “Go and make disciples.” You naturally reach people in your daily walk. Your position in the workplace is to preach the gospel—with actions at least, if not words. The places you go are an opportunity to spread God’s love. Don’t leave a tract instead of a tip, at a restaurant. Leave a big tip and do it with the love of Christ. Don’t stand on the corner and yell at people that they’re going to hell. Stand with a sandwich board and tell them there is hope for addiction, abortion, etc. God has given you the ministry of reconciliation. We reconcile people to God by loving on them. We need to care enough to reach out to the lost and broken world.

### **Scripture References:**

- “And He said unto them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mk. 16:15
- “Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read, by just looking at you.” (2 Cor. 3:1-3 MESSAGE)
- “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.” (Mat. 5:13)
- “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” (Galat. 5:1)

• “Now all things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their sins to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.” (2 Cor. 5:18-20).

#### **Discussion Prompts:**

#### **Why don't Christians evangelize more?**

- Gut check: how do you feel about evangelism? Is it natural for you, a burden, or somewhere in between?
- What keeps you from witnessing wherever you go? What things are emotional barriers, and what things are circumstantial?
- Which barriers do you think God wants to challenge you on?
- What kinds of strategies could you adopt, to help?

#### **Many Christians fall into the trap of feeling like they have to become a minister or missionary to fulfill God's call to “Go.”**

- Have you experienced this? Have you resolved this?
- When Moses had to confront Pharaoh, God asked him, “What is in your hand?” Consider where you are right now and what is in your hands. What are your talents and obligations? How could God use you to be a missionary right in the place you are now? What people and institutions could He use you to touch? Think outside the box, but don't think years ahead and far away.
- Other than leaving a good tip at a restaurant, what kinds of things can Christians do to be a “living Word” to everyday people?
- What kinds of evangelistic strategies have you found to work best? Which ones have you seen fruit come from?

#### **Discussion Prompts:**

#### **How did you feel about Pastor Tim's interpretation of the offering to King David? That God asked David to pour out the bowl of water because He's the King, and He can do what He wants? (2 Samuel 23:13-17).**

- What would this mean in your life? Does God have any requests for you? What bowls of water might God be asking you to pour out?
- Why is it difficult for people to do this? What specifically makes it hard for you?
- How would growing closer to God help? What gets in the way of that?
- How would honoring God help? What gets in the way of that?
- Does God ask difficult things of His children to test them? To get them to submit? How is love the ultimate motivation for what God asks?

#### **Pastor Tim spent time explaining how the stronger a relationship is, the less rules are needed. Consider your own key relationships for a moment.**

- What is the sign of a healthy relationship with someone? How do you know if you are in a rule-based versus love-based relationship?
- Are there relationships you're in, that you wish were more love-based, with fewer rules? What would you need to do, in order to achieve this? What would the other person need to do?
- Why is it hard when the other person is the stumbling stone to a good relationship? How do you think God wants you to be responsible in these situations? What did Jesus do in these kinds of relationships?

- Are you the stumbling stone in any of your relationships? What do you think God wants you to do, to change that? What kind of ministry or counsel would help you move forward? (ministry opportunity here)

**What would the Church look like, if the Body of Christ as a whole acted in a love relationship with God? What if there were fewer rules and God could ask His children to do anything, like He asked David?**

- How would this fix problems in the church?
- How would this fix problems in society?
- What does this ultimately say about the things we think are the problems and solutions in the world? (prayer opportunity here)