



GO AND...

Monthly Summaries

June – Pray

Prayer is the grounding for our relationship with God. From formal prayers offered in worship, prayers at meals, and fleeting moments of prayer, our lives are enveloped in prayer. In prayer, we both listen and share what is in our hearts and on our minds. We move, live, and serve in and out of our prayers.

Questions to consider:

- What is your big prayer at this time?
- What is going on in the lives of your neighbor? How can you pray for them?
- Where will you *GO and...* grow your prayer life this month?

Prayer: Holy One, help me pause and engage in conversation with you this month and always. Amen.

Suggested Song: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (ELW 752)

July – Listen

How do we listen with our full selves? In reality, all of our senses are used when we listen – with our ears, our eyes, our mouths, and our bodies. As disciples, we listen to ourselves, our neighbors, and God. When we listen, we find new perspectives, shared history, and common ground.

Questions to consider:

- What is something you learned from listening to your heart?
- What is something you learned from listening to a stranger?
- In a year of *GOING*, how will you listen to those around you?

Prayer: Listening God, help me stay open to the surprises you provide while on the road this summer. Amen.

Suggested Song: Listen, God is Calling (ELW 513)

August – Share Your Story

Children freely share their stories – often full of actions, sound effects, and details (sometimes minute) that bring a story to life. We all have a story to share: stories of families, friendships, histories, and faith. We connect the dots and see our connections.

Questions to consider:

- When was the last time you listened to a child tell a story? What did you hear?
- What is a biblical story that connects with your own story?
- What is your story? Where are you *GOING* to share your story?

Prayer: Creator God, our story starts and ends with you. Give us the wisdom to see where and how we might share our stories and the courage to share them. Amen.

Suggested Song: Jesus Loves Me (ELW 595)

September – Serve with Neighbors

As Mr. Rogers asked us – “Who is your neighbor?” Love grounds us as we engage with our neighbors living next door, the people in surrounding communities, and those living beyond our own horizons. Accompaniment calls us to use our God-given gifts and talents as we collaborate, learn from each other, and together walk in agape love.

Questions to consider:

- Who is your neighbor? How do you know?
- What did you discover in walking with your neighbor?
- As you *GO* with your neighbors, how do you describe your vocation?

Prayer: God of Accompaniment, you meet us where we are at. Help us meet our neighbors wherever they might be and walk with them. Amen.

Suggested Songs: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (ELW 708) & God’s Work, Our Hands (ACS 1000)

October – Ask

In a world that is shifting and changing, we have come to recognize the importance of asking good questions. Good questions come from intentional listening and a willingness to engage with the unknown. God, Jesus, prophets, disciples, crowds, and Martin Luther all asked questions. As followers of Jesus, we are called to wrestle with questions, which do not always result in clear answers.

Questions to consider:

- What big questions are on your heart and mind?
- What is a question you are afraid to ask?
- What would you add to Martin Luther’s 95 Theses?
- What is a ‘*GO* to’ question as you engage in conversation?

Prayer: Knowing God, what are you asking of me? Amen.

Suggested Song: Ask the Complicated Questions (ACS 1005)

November – Be Honest

Honesty requires vulnerability, awareness, and a willingness to really listen. Assumptions and half-truths can lead us to misunderstand the situation and story. What does reconciliation mean as we strive to move from places of misunderstanding? God calls us to be honest. Sometimes, that may look like lament and confession, and other times hymns of praise and gratitude.

Questions to consider:

- What is a time you didn’t tell the whole truth... or were not honest?
- What piece of history should you/could you explore with a lens of honesty?
- In what way are you being dishonest in your life?
- *GO and* express gratitude by saying thank you to someone who deserves it.

Prayer: Reconciling God, we ask for forgiveness for the times we have not reconciled our differences and acknowledged the hurts and wounds we have caused. Amen.

Suggested Songs: Amazing Grace (ELW 779) & Be Present at Our Table Lord

December – Be Present

As we await and celebrate Christ's birth, we remember that God is present and shows up. The babe in the manger, God Incarnate, is God's gift of deep love for us. We are invited to pause, be still, and be fully present in this holy season. Society calls us to a different place where busyness, spending, and rushing about are marks of success. God, in Christ, offers another way:

Emmanuel – God with us.

Questions to consider:

- What can I add to this season that would truly allow me to pause?
- What tradition do you have that nurtures being present at this time of year?
- As you are on the *GO*, how are you going to practice being present?

Prayer: Emmanuel, you are present with us. Help us be present with each other. Amen.

Suggested Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257)

January – Rest

At the start of the new year, we are pushed to get organized, exercise more, and make New Year's resolutions. How do we take rest among all this? What does it mean to be like Jesus? It means taking time to pause, rest, and embrace the day. That might mean taking a nap, getting together with old friends, reading a good book, or enjoying the arts as we recognize God makes all things new.

Questions to consider:

- What brings you rest?
- What does Sabbath mean for you? What does it look like in your life?
- Let *GO*, what are you going to give up this year so that you can rest?

Prayer: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils and joys unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Suggested Song: In the Lord, I'll be Ever Thankful (Taize hymn)

February – Have THE Conversation

Conversation is an exchange involving active listening as well as taking turns sharing ideas and stories. It can be easy for us to fall into monologuing, lecturing, or tuning out especially when we think we know the answers. As a result, we often avoid having difficult conversations. Faith-filled disciples are called to be honest and engage with each other in Christ-like love.

Questions to consider:

- What is your prayer as you consider engaging in a hard conversation?
- When was a time you had a hard conversation? What did it feel like? What did you learn from it?
- What is The conversation that you need to *GO* have and with whom?

Prayer: Engaging God, who is not afraid of any conversation, give me the words, wisdom, and heart to join in difficult conversations. Amen.

Suggested Song: Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)

March – Be Intentional

Jesus is on the road to the cross and is prepared for what is to come. Too often during Lent, we find ourselves busy marching down the road with a long 'to-do' list. The season of Lent calls to be intentional. This means showing up, being present, and diving in deep as disciples.

Questions to consider:

- What is a Lenten or Easter tradition in your family?
- How can you be intentional in your preparation for Holy Week and Easter?
- How can you get unstuck and *GO* forward with intention as a follower of Jesus?

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer (Use the version of your heart)

Suggested Song: Beautiful Things (ACS 925)

April – Tell the Story

Jesus isn't in the tomb anymore - God is on the loose! God is active and up to something! The story of Easter is an ongoing one, similar to the story of our own faith. Our response as disciples is to *Go and...* to go out, go share, go proclaim, and to go tell the story.

Questions to consider:

- What is one of your favorite Bible stories?
- Is there a prop or tangible item you might use to help you tell the story?
- How will you *GO and* tell the story?

Prayer: Master Storyteller, your stories seem almost unbelievable. Open us to recognize your patience, deep love, and grace. Help me be a storyteller. Amen.

Suggested Song: I Love to Tell the Story (ELW 661)

May – Be Church

What does it mean to be church? The Holy Spirit is moving and blowing through, with, and for God's people. To *Go and...* means we pray, listen, share our story, serve with neighbors, ask, be honest, be present, rest, have the conversation, be intentional, tell the story, and be the church. Everybody has something to offer – Let's Go!

Questions to consider:

- If you overheard someone talking in the grocery store about your congregation/ministry site, what do you hope people are saying?
- Use your imagination! What is your big dream for your congregation? (No limits!)
- What gifts, talents, and expertise do you hold and how can you share?
- I am going to *Go and* be church by _____.

Prayer: Holy God who gathers and sends us, we give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Equip us, give us language to proclaim the Good News, and empower us to *GO* forth into the world. Amen

Suggested Song: Go to the World (ACS 991)

