

What Is In Your Hands?

Go Ministries has recently partnered with Centre Street Church to reach the unreached in the 10/40 Window, a rectangular area between the latitudes 10°N and 40°N stretching from Africa to the Pacific Ocean. This window includes the countries of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia where most of the world's Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and unreached people groups live.

Joseph Ibrahim, the founder of Go Ministries, and his wife and five children live and work in this Window. Joseph frequently travels across the Middle East and North Africa to encourage his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Highlights of the 10/40 needs:

Two thirds of the world's population, over 5 billion people, live in the Window. 99.9% of them don't believe in Jesus. Those who have never heard the good news about Jesus are called "Unreached". Today 3.4 billion people are still Unreached.

Fifty years ago 60% of the total world population was unreached. Today it is estimated to be just 25%, and the followers of Jesus have increased by 400%.

These numbers are very encouraging. They show that the global Church has made great progress over the past 50 years. But the shocking reality is that only 1% of the missionaries are sent to "Frontier Unreached Groups" and only about 2% of giving goes to reach the Unreached. While the laborers are few, the harvest is plenty!

I am very excited to share with you some stories and miracles of what God is doing among the Unreached today through **Go Ministries**. This year we baptized many new believers. God is on the move!

Serving among the Unreached is hard. Sometimes it seems like homesteading. Lots of work and little change. Despite that, God is transforming lives.

Last year we visited a city of about 1.2 million people with zero Christian witness. We went to one of the highest spots, looked over the city, prayed for church there, and broke bread. Exactly a year later, I went back and helped to baptize 14 new believers.

The big question is, how do we respond to the huge needs of the Unreached?
What can we do together to reach the unreached today?

God had a big plan to deliver His people out of the slavery of Egypt, but first He had to transform Moses' heart and mind to align with his life's calling. God called him by name and started to explain what He was about to do through him. But Moses made excuses.

Then God asked the big question. "**What is that in your hand?**" Answer: his staff, what any shepherd would have had in his hand. The tool of his job.

Remember David facing the giant. He didn't meet Goliath with a sword or spear; he came with what he had in his hand – a sling, and the name of the Lord. And God delivered them all.

God is not looking for complicated tactics and big plans to deliver His people. God is asking each one of us, "What do you have in hand?" God can use what you have in your hands to do what He wants to do.

God is asking you today, what is in your hands? Is it Your job, your time, your artistic skills, your prayers, your financial resources, your hospitality?

Ask yourself: Am I in a position where God can speak to me? What is in my hand that I want to offer to God? How will I respond in faith to God's mission among the Unreached?

Use what is in your hands to work with God today!

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What is one of your skills your group might not know about? Where do you use this skill?
2. What were the circumstances when you first heard about Christ?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read *Exodus 3:1-4* in NKJV. What did God do to get Moses' attention? How did Moses respond? What can we learn from Moses' response?
4. Read *Exodus 4:1-17*. How many times did Moses express reluctance to follow God's call to rescue Israel from Egyptian bondage? How did the Lord address each of Moses' doubts?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. "What is in your hand?" Discuss the unique talents each of you bring to the group. Think of practical ways you can use these talents together to serve your community and your local church.
6. List possible opportunities for your group to be involved in ministering to the unreached around the world. Where will you start?

If you want more information about Centre Street Church's global outreach, visit: cchurch.ca/global.

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I in a position where God can speak to me?
- What is in my hand to offer to God?
- How will I respond in faith to God's mission among the unreached?

THE WORD (NIV)

Exodus 3:1-4

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

Exodus 4:1-3

4 Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?"

²Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," he replied.

³The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.

This week's writers: Elsa Henderson, Deb Matiko, Alfred Samson and Jorel Quemuel