



**TO THE ENDS
OF THE EARTH AND**

Beyond

**...AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM,
AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE
ENDS OF THE EARTH**

ACTS 1:8

COMMUNITY • NATION • WORLD

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AND *Beyond*

EVERYONE IS SENT SOMEWHERE TO REACH SOMEONE WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Throughout the Bible we see that God is a sending God. He sent Abraham from his home to a new land of promise. He sent Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. He sent prophets like Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Isaiah to proclaim the Word of God to His people, and ultimately, He sent His one and only Son on a great rescue mission to redeem us from our sin. Jesus' final words to His followers, and to all Christians, before ascending to heaven were 'sending' words – the Great Commission. **He sends all of us to be his witnesses, making disciples to the ends of the earth and beyond.**

Those early followers of Jesus were obedient to the command of Jesus—and filled with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit—began to proclaim the Good News in both word and deed. There was profound exponential growth throughout the Roman Empire and beyond as Christians faithfully and courageously followed the call of Christ to serve the poor, preach the Gospel and make disciples. Despite great resistance, persecution and trial, the life and love of these Christ-followers began to shine into a dark and broken world.

For many years, Gateway has been obedient to the call of Jesus to proclaim the Good News to the broken, hurting and poor. We have sent and supported our Gateway Beyond workers who are shining a light and bringing hope in some of the darkest places, both here in Australia and around the world. Through our Gateway Care ministries, located at each of our Gateway Campuses, we have been able reach out and serve those who are broken and hurting in practical ways. **Now more than ever, our community, nation and world are in desperate need of the help and hope that the message of Jesus offers.**

Over the next four weeks we will consider the words found in the book of the Prophet Isaiah who was sent to proclaim the heart and word of God. **We unpack what it looks like to be a Sent people—sent with a mission, message and ministry—as we make Jesus' last words our first priority.**

SUBSCRIBE TO BEYOND E-NEWS

Sign up to receive regular email updates

<https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyond/e-news-sign-up/>

CELEBRATION NIGHT

Get together with friends and join us at 6pm on June 7 to celebrate Gateway Beyond

<https://gatewaybaptist.online.church>

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

Join us on Zoom at 7am for 40mins for the next 40 days to pray

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

GIVE TO GATEWAY BEYOND

<https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyond/>

EVERYONE IS SENT

SHARE

1. Who was sent to you to tell you about the Good News of Jesus? Who are the people who were influential in your early faith journey?

Isaiah experiences the tangible presence of God when Israel was in a time of turmoil and distress. In a profound vision, the prophet responds to the need for someone to go with the immortal words, **"Here I am, send me"**. His step of obedience would see him proclaim the wonderful news of God's healing and redemption to a nation in desperate need of hope.

2. Read **Isaiah 6:1–8**. Have someone in the group retell the story in their own words. What stands out to you?
3. What does this passage tell us about the prophet Isaiah? What does it tell us about God?

Thousands of years after Isaiah, the presence of God would come again, not on one person, but a small group of Jesus-followers who would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey the sending words of Christ to go and proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth and beyond.

The same commission and Spirit-power given to the early Christians is also for us today. Every one of us is sent. It may be to Africa, or it may be to our neighbourhood, our workplace or our sporting club. **Everyone is sent somewhere to reach someone with the good news.** Some might be sent to the other side of the world and some of us to the other side of the street. But we are all sent.

4. Read **Acts 1:6–9**. Jesus sent His disciples to tell His story in Jerusalem (the city where they lived), Judea (their home country), Samaria (their closest neighbour) and the ends of the earth. What stands out to you in Gateway's response to the call?

5. Are you willing to say to God, "Here I am, send me"? Has God ever called you to share your faith? What happened? Share your experience with the group.

PRAY TOGETHER

Pray for the ministry of **Gateway Care** in your campus. Pray that God will give you His heart to love the lost people you live, work and laugh with.

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

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ACTION STEP

Write a list of names of the people you live, work and laugh with who don't yet know Jesus. Include your extended family, your neighbours, your friends, team-mates and work colleagues. Pray through the list each day this week, praying for each person by name.

CELEBRATE

Organise a Watch Party for **Celebration Night** at 6pm on June 7. Watch together at: <https://gatewaybaptist.online.church>

FURTHER READING

Read about when God called Jeremiah to be a prophet in **Jeremiah 1:4-19**

Read about when God called Stephen in **Acts 6:1-7**

Sunday 31 May is Pentecost Sunday. Read about when the Holy Spirit came to all believers in **Acts 2**

Find out more about **Gateway Beyond** <https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyond/>

And **Gateway Care** <https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/care/>

EVERYONE IS SENT WITH A MESSAGE TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

SHARE

1. Last week you were encouraged to write a list of the people you live, work and laugh with. How many names did you list? When you were praying for them this week, how did God change your heart?

Philip was one of the Early Church leaders, responsible for looking after the distribution of goods to the needy and poor in Jerusalem. He was a passionate follower of Jesus and longed that people would hear the good news that Jesus was alive.

2. Read **Acts 8:26-40**. Have someone in the group retell the story in their own words. What can you see God doing in this passage? What stands out to you about this story?

Like Philip, we are all sent out to proclaim the life changing message of Jesus. It is this posture of being ready wherever we are that will allow God to lead us to have conversations with people looking for answers. As we make ourselves available and obedient, it is amazing what God can do in and through every one of us.

3. How do you discern the Holy Spirit's voice asking you to do something? How can you, like Philip, be more available to share your faith with someone else?
4. What are some really cool things that God might do if you obey His call?

Now more than ever, we have an incredible opportunity to reveal the truth and wonder of Jesus in a time when people have many questions.

5. What are some of the big faith questions that people who don't yet know Jesus commonly ask? How do you answer them? How do you respond if you don't know the answer? (See Further Reading for more information.)

PRAY TOGETHER

Pray for breakthrough in the lives of those you are sharing your faith with. Pray that whole families will be redeemed through your testimony of faith.

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

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ACTION STEP

While you were praying for the people you live work and laugh with during the week, was there one or two people that God put on your heart? Continue to pray for them this week. What is the first practical step you can take to share more of your life and faith with them?

FURTHER RESOURCES

Bite Size Answers to Big Faith Questions

—a podcast by Dr John Dickson

<https://hope1032.com.au/stories/faith/2017/lifes-big-questions/>

Answering Your Kids Tough Faith Questions

—a broadcast by Focus on the Family

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/episodes/broadcast/answering-your-kids-tough-faith-questions/>

Who Made God? And Answers to Over 100 Tough Questions of Faith

—a book by Ravi Zacharias and Norman L. Geisler

<https://rzm.christianbook.com/answers-over-other-tough-questions-faith/9780310247104/pd/47103?event=RZSLBestsellers>

Ravi Zacharias Ministries

— an Apologetics Website

<https://www.rzim.org/>

EVERYONE IS SENT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AND BEYOND

SHARE

1. How were you able to connect with those you're praying for? What opportunities have you seen God open up? How did you respond?

In chapter 58, Isaiah paints a picture of what God's people are called to do; to live a life that honours God by caring for the most vulnerable, the lost and the hurting across the world. Isaiah encourages his readers that a life true to the call of God is not about glory, reward or recognition, but is all about compassion, generosity and selflessness to serve a world in need. In Isaiah's eyes, the world is transformed when God's people share the good news with those who desperately need it.

2. Read **Isaiah 58:5-12**. What stands out to you about this passage? What does this demonstrate about the character of God?
3. How does the Gospel transform communities? How can we be a part of this transformation?

The message of Jesus is good news to a broken and hurting world. The message that we all get to share wherever we're sent is good news. The first person to ever be sent to the ends of the earth is the Apostle Paul, and right at the end of his life when he was in prison in Rome and about to die, he wrote to Timothy and encouraged him.

4. Read **2 Timothy 2:8-9**. Paul overcame long **distance**, suffered many **difficulties**, and spent a lot of **dollars** in order to share the good news of Jesus. What challenges have you faced in order to share the good news with others? How have you overcome these challenges? What have you seen God do?

As a church we all have the opportunity to participate in the good news of Jesus going to the ends of the earth and beyond every day.

5. Which of the Gateway Beyond ministries are you most excited about being a part of supporting?

PRAY TOGETHER

Read **Philippians 1:3-5**. Thank God for the communities that are being transformed by the power of the Gospel. Pray for God to provide generously for the ongoing work of Gateway Beyond to continue ministry in our community, nation, to the ends of the earth and beyond.

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ACTION STEP

When you give to Gateway Beyond, you are enabling our Gateway Beyond workers that have heard God's call to go and share the good news in some of the neediest places in the world. What is God calling you to give so together we can continue to bring good news to the ends of the earth and beyond?

Give here:

<https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyond/>

CELEBRATE

Prepare your favourite international food and share a picnic with your life group. Celebrate what God is doing in our Community, Nation and World.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Pray for our Gateway Beyond workers by name
<https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyondworkers/>

EVERYONE IS SENT WITH A MISSION TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

SHARE

1. As you have been praying for people you live work and laugh with over the last few weeks, what opportunities has God provided? How do you see God at work?

The good news is not just a truth to believe, it is a reality to experience. It is an invitation to a life of liberation and freedom for all, no matter their circumstances or situations.

2. Read **Isaiah 61:1-3**. What stands out you in this passage? What does this prophecy tell us about the character of God?
3. Read **Luke 4:14-20**. Have someone in the group retell the story in their own words. What do you notice about Jesus in this passage?

Jesus came to usher in a new way of seeing and experiencing the world. When Jesus stands up in the temple and delivers his first sermon, He chooses to use the prophetic words of Isaiah as the mission statement for His life and ministry.

4. How did Jesus demonstrate the fulfillment of this mission statement in His life?

Jesus has sent us out to follow his example – to be His witnesses in the world today. The way we live our life, the way we love our neighbour, and care for the outcast are ways in which we can point people to the love found in Jesus.

5. How will you commit to 'be the good news' in the latter half of the year? How have the reflections over the last four weeks, and the reality of the last four months, changed your focus and perspective going into the second half of 2020?

PRAY TOGETHER

How can you be Good News to the people you live, work and laugh with this week? Pray a blessing over one another and pray for courage to see how we can be an answer to somebody's prayer.

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ACTION STEP

For the next two weeks, be aware of where God sends you and the opportunities He brings your way to share the good news.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Create a Personal Mission Statement?

Use [this worksheet](#) to help discern what God is calling you to do

Find Your Why

Watch this message by Craig Groeschel about discovering your calling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWYbHNBTfng>

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