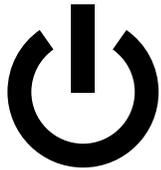


Title: To Go or Not to Go? That Is the Question

Speaker: Todd Shoemaker

Key Verses: Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Timothy 4:12

Summary: God calls us all to go, and for some that means full-time ministry.



Power Up: Take a moment to prepare

Todd's youth group played a vital role in his spiritual growth, especially amid a trying adolescence. What role does youth group play in your life?



Replay: Take some time to watch

Note of the flow of Todd's talk: **1)** his personal call to ministry; **2)** his personal suffering; **3)** the universal call to make disciples; **4)** the need for surrender, prayer, service, and equipping (formal and informal).



Comment: Take some time to talk

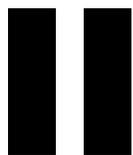
Todd's youth pastor "planted a seed" in his mind about his future ministry. *How did that seed develop? What did his youth pastor do? What did Todd do? How did God use trying circumstances to grow the seed?*

Read 1 Timothy 4:12. *What does this verse say about young people? How do people tend to view youth? How can you be a role model?*

Todd admits his doubts—both of his calling and God's goodness. *What doubts have you wrestled with? How has God proven Himself true?*

Read Ephesians 4:11-16. *What does this say about ministry roles? Where do you feel especially gifted? Where do you feel inept?*

Todd says, "If you're not willing to hold a toilet brush, you're not able to hold a microphone." *What does he mean? In addition to service, what else prepares someone for a call to ministry?*



Pause: Take a moment to pray

Thank God for calling you to Himself. Thank Him for the people in your life who confirm His calling. Ask Him to clarify your gifts, talents, abilities, and opportunities. Ask Him for resolve to serve Him wherever He sends you.



Take Action: Take a step forward

Every calling story has unique elements. Interview two or three people in ministry, asking them about their calling. Take note of common threads, as well as unusual details. See if any of the elements sync with your story.

Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Todd Shoemaker

Power Track Summary: Have you ever thought about going into ministry as a career? Maybe, you feel the Lord tugging on your heart to go into ministry. Or, maybe you have your college/career path already figured out. Whatever you may be thinking or feeling, we are called to do more with our lives. Come check out this Power Track to gain tools to help navigate these questions on what your next steps may look like!

About the Speaker: pastor of student ministries at Grace Church (Bath Campus), 15-year Momentum veteran, husband, and father.

“Youth group saved my life.”

Parents went through a divorce while in sixth grade. Started following Jesus in seventh grade. Always at youth group; invited weekly to the youth pastor’s home for Sunday lunch.

God used my youth pastor to plant a seed to wonder what it might look like to do God’s work.

You’re never too young to do God’s work. (1 Tim. 4:12).

Doubt after doubt kept creeping in... Angry at God... Why am I going through this?

Dark days. Didn’t want to continue in ministry. James 1:2-4 saved my ministry.

“Every single one of you has a story... You can and will be used by God. You’re sitting in this room for a reason... He’s going to use you in ways you never thought were possible.”

“He allowed me to see the pain that I was going through can be used to impact the kingdom.”

“My seventh grade students put me to shame sharing their faith... “Evangelism is not my gift. It’s not what I’m called to do.”

[Calling] goes beyond vocational ministry. Some of you may be called into the medical field, education system, law... God can point us all into [career] directions.

“If you call yourself a follower of Jesus Christ, you are called to go... to whoever, wherever, whenever we have a chance to do it.”

“Pain allowed me to see I was not living a surrendered life. I was trying to hold certain things for me.”

If you think you’re being called:

1. You have to be on your knees. You have to pray.
2. You have to get your hands dirty. You have to serve.
3. You have to be equipped. Get trained. Could be formal (degree, internship) or informal (adult mentor or coach).

“Are calls are all going to look different... If you’re pretty confident God placed that call in your life, do not ignore it.