

WEEK 3 — GET UP AND GO

What God has done in your life can also transform someone else's life.

Scripture Reading: John 5:8–15

Introduction

Today, we've reached the final week of our series, GET UP.

Over these past weeks, we've talked about comfort and excuses that can keep us from responding to God's calling. But today, we want to focus on something very important: What do we do after hearing the voice of Jesus?

In the story found in John 5, Jesus told the man, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." After 38 years of living with his illness, the man was healed and began to walk. His condition had changed. But later, Jesus found him again in the temple and told him to sin no more.

This shows us that Jesus was interested in much more than his physical condition. He also cared about his spiritual life.

Jesus didn't only want the man to experience healing. He wanted him to live differently. And we must also understand that an encounter with Jesus should produce transformation in the way we live.

We cannot reduce our relationship with God to what we receive from Him. His love, grace, and mercy should also transform the way we love and serve others.

1. Everything we have received can become a blessing to someone else.

Think for a moment about how you came to know God. Maybe someone invited you to church, shared the Gospel with you, prayed for you, or walked alongside you during a difficult season.

Perhaps there were teachers, leaders, or volunteers who dedicated time to helping you grow.

Behind many of our experiences with God are people who were willing to serve.

Now think about this: What would have happened if those people had never decided to get involved?

Maybe our stories would be very different. Galatians 5:13 reminds us that we should serve one another through love.

What we've received from God shouldn't end with us. We can become instruments through which other people experience His love as well.

2. The body of Christ needs the participation of its members.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul compares the church to a human body. A body has different members, and each one fulfills an important function.

The eyes don't do the same thing as the hands, and the feet don't do the same thing as the ears. However, they are all necessary. In the same way, there are different ways to serve within the church.

Some teach, others lead, others welcome people, care for children, disciple young people, prepare spaces, help with technology, provide security, walk alongside new believers, or support those going through difficult times.

We are not all called to do the same thing. But we are called to recognize that we are part of something much greater than ourselves. When someone begins serving, they're not simply helping complete a task. They're participating in the mission of sharing the love of Jesus with others.

3. True transformation produces action.

James 1:22 teaches us that we must be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

We can listen to messages about serving, talk about the importance of getting involved, and recognize that there are needs in our church.

But eventually, there comes a moment when we must make a decision. It's not enough to know that serving is important. We must ask ourselves what we're doing with that truth. And it's important to remember that we don't serve to earn God's favor.

Ephesians 2:8–10 teaches us that we are saved by grace through faith and that we have been created in Christ Jesus for good works. Our service is a response of love and gratitude for what God has already done for us.

Conclusion

Over these three weeks, we've received an invitation to step out of our comfort, leave behind our excuses, and respond to God's calling. Maybe for a long time we've enjoyed the efforts and sacrifices of others. And that's not a bad thing. We all need to be cared for, taught, and strengthened.

But there also comes a moment when we must ask ourselves how we can contribute to the growth of others. There are people who still don't know Jesus. There are families who need support. There are children who need teachers. There are young people who need to be disciplined. There are new believers who need someone to walk alongside them. And there are many opportunities to demonstrate God's love through our actions. We don't all have the same availability, and we're not all in the same season of life, but we can look for a way to serve with what God has given us. We were not called only to receive what others do for us, but also to become a blessing to others.

Interactive Questions

1. Who is someone who made an impact on your life through their service? How did they impact you, and what does their example teach you about the importance of serving?
2. If everyone in our church had the same level of involvement as you, what do you think our church would look like? What does your answer reveal about the responsibility we share?
3. After these three weeks, what specific decision are you willing to make to stop being just a spectator and begin actively participating in God's work? How can we help you take that step?

Weekly Challenge: TAKE YOUR PLACE

Over these three weeks, we've talked about recognizing our comfort, leaving behind excuses, and responding to God's calling. Now it's time to turn what we've learned into a decision.

Your challenge: This week, make a concrete decision to begin serving. On a piece of paper, write down how or where you would like to serve. Don't allow what God has spoken to your heart to remain only a good intention.

Remember: The church is not just a place we attend. It is a body that we are part of, and every one of us has something to contribute.