

# Go

Go, as you heard in the sermon, is a challenging word. It can be used to exclude or dismiss someone and it can also be a call to leave the comfortable. All the practices in the Way of Love overlap. Practicing Go without spending considerable time in the other areas and specifically Learn, Pray, and Worship is not advised. There are many times when To Go will take every bit of your attention. Our first response to hearing a call to go is to ignore it or avoid it. It is also true that we will hear the call and take the plunge only to find out later that it was too soon or in the wrong pool.

Here are some suggestions to engage this practice in your life:

## **1. Explore a new place or culture**

One of the easiest ways to shake up the comfortable places is to explore a new neighborhood on foot or attending a cultural event outside of your normal practice. This is all well and good, but don't just wander along the periphery. Do some research and ask a friend to help initiate you into the place or event. While you are experiencing it, keep a running question list that you can explore when you have time upon your return. Go means learning something new.

## **2. Tell someone about your faith**

This is anathema for Episcopalians. We are told to be open to new experience and to avoid judgements about those experiences, so we often avoid sharing our own faith because we don't want to force it on anyone else. Being an Episcopal Christian is a powerful tool that requires nuance. When Episcopalians gather, they won't identify the same things are most important. That doesn't mean that you should not share your faith. Let people know what gives you strength, hope, and love and then ask them to tell you what gives them the same. They will hopefully gained something from you and you from them.

## **3. Take on an activity that you have felt called to do, but have been scared to acknowledge**

It is often the case that we feel called to do something but realize that it will have a seismic effect on our routines. This kind of thinking often holds us back from doing things that would bring about fulfillment for ourselves and new opportunities for others. Don't do this in a vacuum. Do this after conversing with your partner and other important players in your life to determine how compromise can happen. Talk to your clergy person, a good friend, a trusted colleague to gain insights on your call that may expand it and make it a more feasible. Just Do It!